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**Charmed life**
Author **E. Lynn Harris** chronicles his personal struggles in new memoir.
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# Leadership shuffle in Fulton County

## Gay-friendly candidates among hopefuls to succeed Mike Kenn

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Photo illustration by John Nail

**MARRIAGE SPLIT:** Democratic presidential candidates do political tap dance during first-ever gay forum. **Page 11**

**UNPLUGGED?:** Viacom delays launch of gay cable channel in U.S. **Page 16**

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local news

# Backstreet remains open without license

## City gives popular gay club 10 days to prove its status as a private club

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

In the midst of two lawsuits that appeal actions by the city of Atlanta, embattled gay nightclub Backstreet has remained open without a license since July 1, according to police documents.

Backstreet's license to operate as a private club expired on June 30. The club has until July 26 to provide the necessary information to renew its license under guidelines laid out in a 2001 private club ordinance, according to Det. K. Chinyelu of the Atlanta Police Department's license and permits unit.

The city sent a letter to Backstreet on July 16 requiring that it prove its status as a private club under the 2001 ordinance with a list of all club members and documentation verifying Backstreet as a nonprofit organization exempt from federal taxes, Chinyelu said.

Backstreet did not need to hold federal non-profit status to be licensed as a "private club" under earlier versions of the city law.

Now "they will have to apply as a regular nightclub if they do not provide the proper information," Chinyelu said.

But since Backstreet is currently appealing the 2001 ordinance to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, officials don't plan to apply for the private club license renewal, said Jackson Cook, Backstreet's lead attorney.

"We have appealed and it is our position that we are entitled to stay open while that appeal is pending," Cook said.

Yet neither the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia nor the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit agrees with Cook.

Both courts denied Backstreet a temporary restraining order that would have blocked police from enforcing the 2001 private clubs ordinance while Backstreet's attorneys appeal to overturn the ordinance altogether.

"The city has the full authority of the law behind it in enforcing the ordinance," Deputy City Attorney Jerry DeLoach said immediately following the recent court decisions.

If Backstreet does not qualify as a private club, it would have to apply to become a nightclub, which would force the 24-hour club to abide by regular bar hours, closing at 4 a.m. on weekday nights, 2:55 a.m. Saturday, and midnight on Sunday.

The city shouldn't enforce the ordinance before the circuit court makes a ruling, Cook said.

"The city would owe us a heck of a lot of money [if we won]," he said. "It would seem to me that the better course of action would be to wait to see what the appellate court says."

The city of Atlanta has not moved to shut down popular gay club Backstreet, though the facility has been operating without a license since July 1, according to city records. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Backstreet filed the first brief in its appeal to the 11th Circuit in June, and the city has until later this month to file a response. After the circuit court receives the city's brief, it will decide if it will hear the case.

The city law department did not respond to interview requests this week.

### City Council makes enforcement easier

The definition of private clubs changed under a 2001 city ordinance dedicated to "protecting public safety," "preserving residential areas," promoting "desirable living conditions," and sustaining property values, according to the ordinance.

The 2001 ordinance also requires private clubs to be exempt from federal income tax, verified by a certified public accountant, and have at least 250 members whose names, current addresses, and current phone numbers are available at all hours of operation on the club's premises.

"What has happened in the city of Atlanta is people have moved into the city and they have taken apartments and condos, in many cases close to existing institutions, and all the sudden they want to change the city into a suburb without traffic or noise," Cook said.

Enforcement of the ordinance was delayed for two years as Cook — who also represents two other 24-hour private clubs, the Riviera and Crystal Palace — fought the ordinance in U.S. District Court.

But in March, Judge Clarence Cooper ruled the ordinance was lawful and dismissed Backstreet's case.

Cooper's ruling gave the city a green light to begin enforcing the ordinance, but Backstreet stayed open with a private club license that expired June 30.

Typically, the city issues alcohol licenses once per year in January, but in consideration of the pending outcome to Backstreet's court case this year, the Atlanta City Council passed an ordinance in January that said all private club licenses issued in 2003 would expire on June 30.

"The City of Atlanta does not wish to be placed in the position of approving 2003 applications of private clubs for the sale of alcoholic beverages for the full year, and then potentially having the court issue a determinative ruling sometime in 2003" backing the 2001 ordinance, the ordinance said.

The ordinance passed in January 2003 followed up on the 2001 legislation, according to City Council member Anne Fauver, who is gay and represents District 6, where many of Atlanta's gay clubs are located.

"We had not been able to do anything relative to that earlier legislation because of it being in court," said Fauver, who voted for the measure.

### 'Difficulty' in getting nightclub license

Pending the outcome of Backstreet's ordinance appeal, the club may be forced to apply for a nightclub license instead of renewing its private club license — an application that could be denied by the city because of alleged drug sales that occurred on Backstreet's property last year.

The city's License Review Board, a citizen panel appointed by the mayor, voted in December to suspend Backstreet's license for 30 days over charges of drug sales at the club.

Mayor Shirley Franklin signed off on a recommendation from the License Review Board for the one-month license suspension and levied a $9,000 fine on the club on Jan. 29 — the same punishment she gave the Metro Video Bar, another gay club, for similar charges.

The suspensions were set to take effect Feb. 3, but Fulton County judges stopped them with injunctions while the bars appeal the city's decision.

If the Fulton Superior Court does not overturn the suspension, Backstreet might be denied a new license.

City code gives the Atlanta Department of Licenses & Permits the authority to deny a liquor license to applicants that have had a revoked or suspended license in the two years prior to the new application.

"Applying as a nightclub could be difficult for Backstreet," Chinyelu said.

Backstreet is scheduled to appear before Fulton County Superior Court Judge Wendy Shoob on July 29 for its license suspension hearing, according to Shoob's judicial assistant.

The Metro's appeal hearing date is set for July 21 before Judge Stephanie Manis.

Both the Metro and Backstreet are attempting to negotiate settlements before the hearing dates, attorneys said.

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**TAILS & FINS:** Organizers at First MCC's 'Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure' say it's a safe space for children of gay parents. **Spirituality**, Page 29

**WOMEN'S SPACE:** My Sisters' Room is the premier local hotspot for lesbians looking for cozy cuddling or a hopping dance floor. **Nightlife**, Page 51

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local news

# Fulton to see leadership shuffle

## Possible candidates consider campaigns for commission chair

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

Mike Kenn, the Fulton County Commission chair and lightning rod for criticism from some gay activists, enjoyed a busy first week of July.

On July 2, he voted against a proposal offering domestic partner benefits to county employees — his second "no" vote on the controversial measure in two years — and a day later, privately accepted an offer to become president of Georgians for Better Transportation.

And a week later, during a press conference July 10, Kenn confirmed rumors swirling around the Fulton County government complex that he would resign his post, effective Aug. 1, after winning a second term just eight months ago. The announcement has set off a scramble among possible candidates to replace him. **(Story, Page 8)**

"I believe I can do more to help Fulton County and the state of Georgia in the next 3 1/2 years by dedicating myself to the region and the county's greatest threat — traffic congestion," said Kenn, reading from a prepared statement during the July 10 announcement. "That is why I am announcing my resignation."

Kenn, a former Atlanta Falcon who owns two restaurants, is expected to increase his current $37,000-a-year salary in the part-time Fulton County post, though he would not disclose how much he will be paid by Georgians for Better Transportation. In his new position, Kenn will lobby governmental bodies on transportation issues, most commonly roads and highways.

Despite widespread speculation that Kenn may mount a future campaign for statewide office, he said last week he has no immediate plans for public office.

"I have no concrete aspirations to run for statewide office," he answered. "When I know I'll let y'all know."

Kenn declined to discuss his vote earlier this month against domestic partner benefits and declined to address public statements by gay Fulton County employees who said they were hurt by Kenn's position.

"I made my statement at the meeting about why my vote was no," Kenn said.

Doug Carl, a member of Fulton Alliance of County Employees for GLBT Equality, urged employees and voters to be selective in electing Kenn's replacement.

"We would like to see someone, in any of the seats, who recognizes and supports an open and safe workplace atmosphere regardless of sexual orientation," he said. "That's the main goal of FACE."

At least two Fulton County commissioners participated in a FACE event Monday celebrating the July 2 passage of DP benefits, according to Carl. The two men — Robb Pitts, co-sponsor of the DP measure, and Tom Lowe, who opposed a similar measure in 2001 but voted in favor of the benefits this month — are also considering running for the post being vacated by Kenn.

**Mike Kenn**, chair of the Fulton County Commission, announced July 10 he would resign to become president of the nonprofit lobbying group Georgians for Better Transportation, setting off a scramble among potential candidates to replace him. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

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### Replacing Kenn

Kenn's resignation was a surprise but not a shock, according to Charles Bullock, a political scientist at the University of Georgia.

"There was probably a lot of frustration out of being the political minority on the board," Bullock said. "The Republicans had a lot of expectations last year that they would win the majority, and of course that didn't happen."

But the resignation has already created a pool of at least 10 possible candidates. Kenn's replacement, and the ensuing shuffle it might cause on the seven-member commission, could impact gay issues, according to activists.

The Fulton County Commission, split between Democrats from the southern part of the county who often favor social programs and Republicans from northern suburbs who want improved transportation, oversees millions of dollars in federal grants for HIV programs and can be influential legislatively, both on county matters and at the General Assembly.

"The chairman not only has a large say in the county's political agenda, he also gets to assemble the legislative wish-list the county gives to the Fulton delegation down at the capitol," said Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality, the statewide nonpartisan gay advocacy group that led lobbying efforts for the recent DP proposal.

Jeff Graham, executive director for AIDS Survival Project, a nonprofit AIDS service agency, cautioned voters not to overlook the upcoming race. The chair oversees $18.5 million in annual federal grants for HIV efforts and appoints members to the HIV Planning Committee that helps distribute the funds.

"Traditionally the chairmen — including Kenn — have been very hands off on this issue, leaving a large amount of the work and decisions to the very competent, long term staff members," Graham said. "But that question should really be posed to any candidate."

Gay Fulton voters could play a significant role in this race, according to Beth Schapiro, a gay political consultant and head of the Schapiro Research Group.

Because it's an off year and a special election, voter turnout becomes more important, and minority votes are courted more ferociously, she said.

"We are a block that is able to be mobilized and turn out, so any serious candidate for county commission chair needs to be courting the gay vote," she said.

With that courting comes the need to create not just name recognition but a viable connection with the voters, according to Bullock.

"Voters won't be in the polling booths for their favorite senator or a governor, so to motivate voters out of their homes during a local election takes a much stronger one-on-one connection," he said. "Which can be a very good thing for voters."

Elections for open seats often draw more candidates than a race against an incumbent, according to Bob Whitelaw, chair of the Georgia Stonewall Democrats, a partisan gay political advocacy group.

Kenn's flip-flop on DP, Page 8
Who might run? Page 8

"This is a great opportunity to nominate a Democrat who can win in the general election," he said. "And it's a great opportunity for gay voters to make sure, through our candidate forums and other similar events, that their issues are heard."

Marc Yeager, president of the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans, could not be reached for comment by press time.

### The race shapes up

Since Kenn's announcement, at least 10 candidates have surfaced to replace him, though that number may be winnowed down once candidate qualifying takes place next month, Bullock said.

"It's one thing to say, 'Hey, this would be great,' but it's something else to fork over several thousands of dollars and make the kinds of personal sacrifices public positions require," he said.

One of the most high-profile potential candidates is state Sen. Vincent Fort, a 47-year-old Democrat and gay-friendly lawmaker. Others include Pitts, 62, and Lowe, 74. **(Story, Page 8)**

If Pitts or Lowe — both current Fulton commissioners — decide to run for chair, they are required to resign their seats when they qualify for the race.

Former Republican state senator Rusty Paul, also the former state Republican chair, is also reportedly mulling the Fulton post.

Jim King, an unsuccessful Republican candidate for state Senate in 2000, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution he was also interested, but was unable to be reached for comment.

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local news

# New shelter urged to accept trans homeless

## Franklin administration, United Way support inclusion at planned facility

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

After spending the last six months lobbying the Atlanta mayor's office and service providers for the homeless, a transgender advocacy group appears to be making headway in getting transgender homeless included in a new multi-million dollar shelter scheduled to open later this year.

The $5 million, 350-plus bed shelter is the first priority in Mayor Shirley Franklin's new plan to address homelessness in Atlanta, according to officials with the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. A 30-year lease between the nonprofit agency and the city is expected to be approved by the United Way board this week, according to Chris Allers, United Way's senior vice president for community impact.

Franklin supports including transgender homeless in the facility, according to Sandra Walker, the mayor's communications director.

"The city remains committed to serving all of Atlanta's homeless, and that includes transgendered homeless," Walker said.

The plan for the shelter emerged from a March 26 report from the Commission on the Homeless, a panel assembled by the United Way in December at Franklin's request. The 16-member group included a variety of civic and business leaders, but no homeless service providers.

The lease, which would give the United Way direct control and responsibility over the four-story shelter and its estimated $1.7 million annual operating budget, $5 million in construction costs, and operation, was passed by the Atlanta City Council in a 12-1 vote June 16.

Once approved by the United Way board, activity around the project will speed up, allowing the agency to put construction contractors into action and begin interviewing service subcontractors, Allers said.

Physical work on the building, which is still being minimally used as a secondary pretrial detention center by the city, could begin in as little as 90 days, according to Allers, with most services up and going before cold weather hits.

It is now, before the service subcontractors are lined up, that policies explicitly calling for the inclusion of transgendered homeless need to be made clear, according to Monica Helms, executive director of Trans=Action, a transgender advocacy group in Georgia.

"We have a long history of Atlanta shelters excluding transgendered homeless, and we have an opportunity to stop that now," she said.

Anne Fauver, a gay member of the Atlanta City Council who voted in favor of the project, also urged inclusive policies at the new shelter.

Trans=Action Executive Director **Monica Helms** said the transgender advocacy group has lobbied city officials and homeless service providers to accept transgendered homeless at local shelters. (Photo by Christopher Seely)

"While this isn't a city facility and we are simply a landlord, because of the city's nondiscrimination policies and because of my personal beliefs, I would specifically like to see that shelter include transgender homeless," she said.

### Shelter for men only

The as-yet-unnamed shelter's sleeping facilities will be used exclusively for men, according to Allers, who worked for a nonprofit homeless agency before joining the United Way.

"That somewhat limits the number of transgendered homeless we expect to get, since the vast majority of transgendered homeless are male-to-female," he said. "But we're very aware of the need. ... This is not lip service."

If a female-to-male transgendered person asked for shelter, "we would find an acceptable solution for everybody," Allers said. "Because the old facility is a jail with separate cells, it's a great raw plan to recreate a shelter with more privacy for each bed."

But the 24-hour-a-day shelter is designed to offer social services as well, including housing, employment, resource referral and other life skills, according to Allers, and "all of those would be open to everyone, including transgendered homeless."

"Being able to service the transgendered population is an absolute must to us," Allers said, while noting he could not speak for final decision-makers at the United Way, nor for service providers who have yet to be contracted.

A February 2003 survey by Southern Voice found no homeless shelters in Atlanta that will accept transgendered people without conditions.

Those shelters will only accept transgendered people if they dress as their birth sex,

Please see TRANS HOMELESS on Page 7

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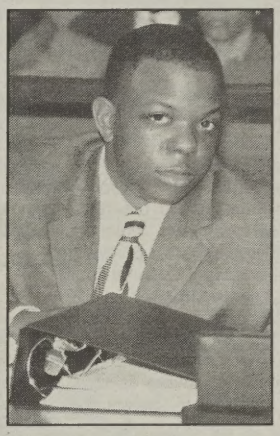
local news

# Counsel unclear for assault defendant seeking new trial

## Price wants bail, new attorney

By RYAN LEE



An attorney for **Aaron Price** during Price's June trial said this week he still represents the former Morehouse student, despite a court motion requesting a new attorney. (Photo by Sher Pruitt)

Two of the three lawyers who represented Aaron Price in Georgia's first hate crimes trial filed motions for a new trial, arguing the evidence did not warrant the guilty verdict on assault and battery charges and the two 10-year prison sentences Price received.

A separate motion has been filed asking Fulton County Superior Court Judge Jerry Baxter, who presided over Price's three-day trial in June, to appoint Price a new lawyer to handle his appeal.

But despite that request, Price's lead attorney, Tony Axam, said he plans on continuing to represent his client.

Axam filed a motion for a new trial on July 2, stating in court documents that "this verdict is contrary to the evidence presented and is without proper evidence to support said verdict.

"This verdict is decidedly and strongly against the weight of the evidence presented in this case," the document continued. "This verdict is contrary to law and the principles of justice."

Price was acquitted on the hate crime charge, but found guilty of assault and battery against a fellow Morehouse student he felt made an unwelcome sexual advance.

Axam's motion was identical to one made by one of Price's other attorneys, J. Kevin Franks, which was filed June 30. Also filed June 30 was a "motion to appoint counsel for the purpose of appeal," said Mary Heath, the case manager in Baxter's office. Heath said it was not clear who filed the request for a court-appointed attorney.

Axam did not return calls for an interview, but did respond to a question about whether he would be representing Price throughout the appeal process. Talisa Burke, a representative in Axam's office, said Axam remains Price's lawyer, and denied Price has asked for a new attorney.

Before the new trial motion was made, Axam told Southern Voice he would "be honored" to represent Price in the appeal.

Price's father, Jerome Price, a pastor in Chicago, would not comment on Axam's role in either the initial trial, or the appeal.

When contacted Tuesday, Franks declined to comment on the case.

A jury on June 11 convicted Price of aggravated assault and aggravated battery for beating Gregory Love with a baseball bat after he perceived Love made an unwanted sexual advance. The two were students at Morehouse College when the attack occurred in November 2002, but Price was expelled immediately following the incident.

While convicted on the assault and battery charges, the 12-person jury took less than 15 minutes to rule that Price's attack against Love was not motivated by anti-gay bias, and the defendant was acquitted of hate crime charges.

Representatives in Baxter's office said Price's lawyers also requested that he be released from the Fulton County Jail on bail until his motion for a new trial is considered. The earliest Baxter would consider Price's appeal would be in August.

# D.A. awaits charges in campus incident

By RYAN LEE

The cases of two Morehouse College students involved in an alleged anti-gay incident on the school's campus are in limbo, according to Erik Friedly, a spokesperson for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.

Justin Dolly, 20, and Juan Smith, 22, appeared in Fulton County Magistrate Court July 1, following a June 23 incident where Smith claimed Dolly and his friends harassed him for being gay.

Dolly admitted laughing at Smith as his friends ridiculed Smith's attire — "He had slits in his jeans, he was wearing stilettos and was carrying a purse," Dolly told Southern Voice — but denied being personally involved in the harassment.

Smith did not respond to interview requests.

Dolly said Smith reacted to the taunts by pulling a gun from his bag, pressing it against his stomach and threatening him. Morehouse police later discovered the gun was a plastic toy Smith used in a fashion show, according to police reports.

Both students were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, and Smith was also charged with making terroristic threats. Although arrested, neither was taken into custody and both were released the same day without having to post bail, Morehouse Police Chief Vernon Worthy said.

After their appearance in magistrate court, the charges were sent to a grand jury. Usually, Friedly said, the district attorney's office receives those charges within days, but he said his office has no record of either case.

He said they could be in a "bind-over process," meaning they are in a lag from the time the magistrate court made its decision until the time his office receives the paperwork.

Disorderly conduct is typically a misdemeanor charge, and would normally be directed to the Fulton County Solicitor General's Office, Friedly said. However, the magistrate judge said the charge against Dolly was so serious in nature that it should be elevated to a felony and passed along to the grand jury, Worthy said.

When the district attorney's office receives the paperwork on Dolly and Smith, Friedly said an assistant district attorney will review and investigate the cases to determine what, if any, formal charges will be filed.

After investigating and settling on charges, the district attorney's office could either send the charges to the grand jury and ask for an indictment, or simply accuse the defendants of committing the crime. That process carries the same weight as an indictment, but only requires the district attorney's signature, as opposed to grand jury approval.

Friedly said the investigation could also show that the disorderly conduct charges don't merit felony status, sending them back to the magistrate court.

Morehouse College expelled Aaron Price in November after he was accused of beating another student in an anti-gay attack. Toni Mosley, director of public relations at Morehouse, would not comment on whether Dolly and Smith face disciplinary charges from Morehouse, citing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

# Hotel vouchers available for trans homeless

**TRANS HOMELESS,** continued from **Page 6**

Helms testified during a Jan. 28 meeting of the Commission on the Homeless.

The issue can be a matter of life and death, Helms told the commission, recounting the suicide of Alice Johnston — an Army veteran of three wars, a librarian, a computer engineer and a male-to-female transsexual.

**MORE INFO**

**United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta**
100 Edgewood Ave.
404-527-7200
www.unitedwayatlanta.org

**Task Force for the Homeless**
363 Georgia Ave., SE, 2nd Floor
Atlanta, GA 30312-3139
404-589-9495
www.homelesstaskforce.org

"As of 14 Dec. I'm one of the homeless," read the automatic outgoing reply Johnston left on her e-mail account. "Shelters don't take transsexuals and I'm not changing back. Looks like I'm a goner. Thanks for the support over the past few years. Hugs, Alice."

The message proved true a day later.

Johnston, 52, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound Dec. 15 along the banks of the Chattahoochee River in Fulton County, according to the Fulton County Medical Examiner's office.

### Slow, steady progress

Helms and other Trans=Action members have regularly attended monthly meetings of the Coalition for the Homeless, a loose-knit group of homeless service providers and shelters in Atlanta, Helms said.

Anita Beatty, director of coalition member Metro Atlanta Taskforce for the Homeless, which operates the large Peachtree and Pine shelter, has "been diligently working with Trans=Action to provide a solution for transgendered homeless," according to Helms.

Beatty did not respond to interview requests by press time.

A one-time round table forum on April 16 between Trans=Action members and members of the Atlanta Union Mission, Task Force for the Homeless, Crossroads Ministries, Southern Poverty Law Center, Samaritan House, Homeward Incorporated and Trinity Community Ministries "initially went well, but didn't really pan out afterwards," Helms said.

"We pitched them some ideas and they never got back to us. While this need is still here, that lack of response is a real shame," she said.

Trans=Action had proposed a pilot program that would allow transgendered women to seek emergency housing in one women's shelter, but that program has yet to be implemented in any of the shelters, Helms said.

The first solid solution for transgendered homeless people came during the first week of May, just after public release of the commission's report revealed that commission members had omitted any real mention of this population.

The United Way announced it would make available emergency funding to be used as a hotel or motel voucher for any transgendered homeless who called their 211 help line after being turned away from a shelter.

No one has used the program yet, according to Allers.

"It's hard to tell over the phone, of course, but no one has self-identified as transgendered and framed their need like that," he said.

local news

# List of possible candidates grows for Fulton post

The names of several possible candidates for chair of the Fulton County Commission surfaced in the wake of Mike Kenn's announcement last week that he will resign effective Aug. 1.

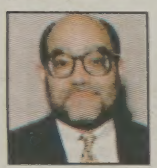
Qualifying for the race is expected to run Aug. 25-27, with a special non-partisan election on Nov. 4, according to election officials. With several candidates expected in the race, a run-off is scheduled for Nov. 25.

Current commissioners would have to resign their posts to run for chair, according to election officials. Qualifying for races to succeed them would be held Sept. 24.

Among possible candidates:

## Democrats

**Vincent Fort**, a state senator, has yet to publicly declare himself a candidate, but is



"seriously, seriously considering it," he said this week. "It would allow me a platform to directly address the progressive issues I'm most interested in." Elected to the Georgia Senate in 1996, Fort authored the state's hate crimes law, which passed in 2000, and is considered a gay-friendly ally in the Republican-controlled state Senate.

**Robb Pitts**, elected to the Fulton County Commission last November, called the opportunity "one I can't just overlook. I'm seriously considering it." Pitts said his 20 years on the Atlanta City Council, including a term as City Council president, make him

"imminently qualified."

Pitts co-sponsored, and successfully pushed through, domestic partner benefits for county employees earlier this month. Georgia Equality endorsed him last year in his campaign for an at-large post on the Fulton Commission.

**Dean Chronopoulos** gained 48 percent of the vote to come close to defeating Kenn

as commission chair last November. "I'm definitely running," Chronopoulos said this week. Georgia Equality endorsed Chronopoulos last year and he will actively seek out the group's endorsement again, he said.

"We do finally have [domestic partner benefits], which is great," said Chronopoulos, who owns the gay-popular Roxx restaurant on Cheshire Bridge Road. "But the chairman position needs someone in there who will proactively defend it against an almost certain court challenge, and I plan to do that."

**Jackie Barrett**, in her third-term as

Fulton County sheriff, said Wednesday she is also considering the race. "I am weighing my options," she said. Barrett's only political office to date has been that of sheriff, "but she's spoken out in favor of many of our issues in the past, and we're comfortable with her record," said Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality. Barrett became the first African-American female elected sheriff in the nation when she won her first term in 1992.

**Karen Webster Parks** publicly expressed an interest in running to Fulton County officials, according to Jessica Corbitt, Fulton's public affairs manager. A former Fulton commissioner, Webster Parks voted for domestic partner benefits two years ago. Last year, she decided against seeking re-election to her At-Large post. Webster Parks did not respond to interview requests by press time.

**Mitzi Bickers**, a former president of the Atlanta Board of Education and current District 2 representative, said this week she was "definitely running." When asked,

Bickers said she would seek out gay voters for support, but stopped short of endorsing the recently passed Fulton DP legislation. Bickers is an ordained Baptist minister and director of governmental affairs for Thacker-Gibbs, Inc., according to the Atlanta Public Schools Web site.

## Republicans

**Karen Handel**, currently a deputy chief of staff for Gov. Sonny Perdue, ran against Pitts for the Fulton At-Large post last year. Handel courted gay votes in 2002 and was endorsed by the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans.

**Rusty Paul**, a former state senator and state Republican party chair, also indicated he is interested in running. "I can confirm that I'm thinking about it," he said. As head of the state GOP, Paul addressed the Atlanta Executive Network, a gay business group, in 1997.

**Lee Morris**, an attorney and accountant who served on the Atlanta City Council from 1994-2001, is "definitely running," he said this

week." Morris, who describes himself as "a mixed bag of fiscal conservative and social progressive," cast the lone vote against a gay-inclusive civil rights bill approved in by the City Council in December 2000.

"I didn't vote against them on philosophical grounds, but because I did not think the city of Atlanta had the right to create a private right of action in Municipal Court," Morris said.

**Tom Lowe**, a longtime Fulton County commissioner, is also considering the race,

according to Ralph Daniels, his chief of staff. A conservative Republican, Lowe garnered strong praise from gays after reversing his opposition to domestic partner benefits for county employees and voting in favor of the proposal earlier this month.

**Jennifer J. Smith**

## Mike Kenn on DP benefits

The battle for domestic partner benefits for Fulton County workers spans Mike Kenn's tenure as Fulton County Commission chair, from promises allegedly made during his initial 1998 campaign to his vote earlier this month against successful legislation granting benefits to same-sex couples.

### 1998

• Mike Kenn, a business owner and former Atlanta Falcons football player, successfully runs for Fulton County Commission chair. He seeks and wins endorsements from Georgia Equality and the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans. Both gay political groups say Kenn promised to support and "give leadership" to a fight for DP benefits for county workers.

### 1999

• **December:** Josh Kenyon, Kenn's chief of staff, announces the commission chair is forming a committee to study offering domestic partner benefits to county employees. Kenn asks for an initial report by March 1.

Kenn would then want a final report by April 1. "If we can get this report back, it is not out of the question that we could have something in place in the first half of next year," Kenyon says.

### 2000

• **January:** The DP study committee appointed by Kenn holds its first meeting. All nine voting members are gay, and two members of the gay Georgia Log Cabin Republicans are appointed chairs. The DP committee also includes non-voting members representing county departments.

• **April:** Kenyon says the committee is wrapping up its work. Kenn "has really been very pleased with the committee's excellent work," Kenyon says.

• **June:** Michael Harris, spokesperson for Kenn at the time, says the Fulton County Commission will vote June 7 on the DP benefits proposal. Kenn and Commissioner Nancy Boxill will co-sponsor the legislation, Harris says.

But the vote is delayed due to questions from some county department heads and a separate investigation into alleged bribe-taking for county contracts.

Kenyon would normally handle the last minute questions from department heads, but he pleads guilty to taking a bribe and is fired. Harris says the DP vote will be rescheduled.

• **October:** Answering questions from Southern Voice through Harris, Kenn says he does not support DP benefits legislation drafted by his own committee and that his campaign pledge was only to "examine" the benefits.

The claim outrages gay rights activists who say Kenn promised to support the benefits and never expressed any concerns about the committee's work.

"There are lies and then there are damn lies, and that is a damn lie," said Harry Knox, then-executive director of Georgia Equality.

### 2001

• **February:** Kenn meets with the head of his domestic partner study committee for the first time since refusing to support the benefits. Kenn would not reconsider, according to Mansell McCord, former Log Cabin president and chair of the committee.

• **July 11:** Commissioner Nancy Boxill introduces for a first reading a resolution for DP benefits. Boxill says she has not talked with other commissioners to lobby for support of the bill prior to introducing it.

• **July 18:** The Fulton Count Commission votes 5-2 against Boxill's proposal to offer DP benefits to same-sex and opposite-sex couples. "We are not talking about discrimination against employees by reason of their sexual orientation," says District 5 Commissioner Emma Darnell, who voted against the proposal. "We're talking about discrimination against employees by reason of their decision that they would prefer to shack and not get married."

Kenn and Commissioners Robert Fulton, Tom Lowe and Edwards join Darnell in voting against the ordinance. Boxill and Karen Webster vote in favor of the measure.

### 2002

• **June 10:** Running for re-election against Dean Chronopoulos, a Democrat who pledges to lead the effort on DP benefits, Kenn grants his first interview with the gay press in four years. "I'm standing by my original statement. I only said I would consider it," Kenn says about DP benefits.

Kenn declines to say whether he will ever support DP legislation.

• **Oct. 21:** Kenn skips a candidate forum organized by three gay political groups. "He will not be going, and he has declined any interview about the campaign," says Susan Laccetti Meyers, spokesperson for his campaign. "He's not interested, sorry."

Chronopoulos criticizes Kenn's absence and apparent flip-flop on the DP issue.

• **Nov. 4:** Kenn wins re-election over Chronopoulos, who nevertheless earns 48 percent of the vote. Kenn "knew DP benefits would probably motivate gay voters," but he does not see the close election as a mandate to be more proactive on the issue, says Rob Simms, Kenn's chief of staff.

### 2003

• **April 4:** Robb Pitts, a former Atlanta City Council member now on the Fulton County Commission, tells Southern Voice he plans to introduce DP benefits legislation at the Fulton County Commission's next meeting. Kenn's spokesperson won't say how he will vote. "Just as he committed to the gay community a couple of years ago, he will review it thoroughly," says Meyers, now Kenn's senior policy advisor and communications director.

• **April 16:** At the County Commission meeting, Pitts agrees to table his DP benefits legislation, without discussion, until the commission's May 21 meeting. Kenn declined interview requests.

• **May 21:** The commission votes to hold over the proposal to offer domestic partner benefits for a second consecutive meeting. Kenn misses the meeting to attend a family funeral.

• **June 4:** The County Commission votes 4-3 to again delay a vote on DP benefits, opting to schedule a work session on the issue instead.

• **June 10:** After repeatedly declining interview requests, Kenn issues a press release saying he will oppose DP benefits. "I understand a small, special-interest group is spreading lies that I agreed to be the swing vote necessary to pass such a plan," Kenn says in the statement. "I want to set the record straight. I am not voting for this proposal. Period. End of story."

• **June 11:** Only four of seven commissioners turn out for a work session on the DP legislation, with Kenn among the absent.

• **June 18:** DP legislation is removed from the County Commission meeting's agenda because co-sponsor Nancy Boxill is absent.

• **July 2:** In front of a small, silent contingent of gay Fulton County employees and activists, the County Commission votes 4-2 in favor of offering domestic partner benefits, after the legislation is amended to restrict the benefits to same-sex partners only.

Kenn joins Darnell in voting against the legislation. "You might call me old school, but I believe in the sanctity of marriage," he says during the meeting. "Until the state of Georgia certifies same-sex unions, I cannot support it."

• **July 10:** Kenn announces he will resign his County Commission post effective Aug. 1 to become president of Georgians for Better Transportation, a private lobbying group.

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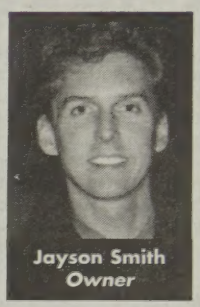

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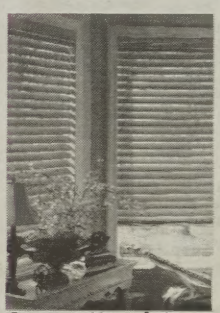

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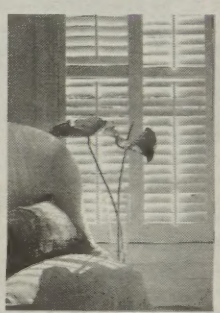

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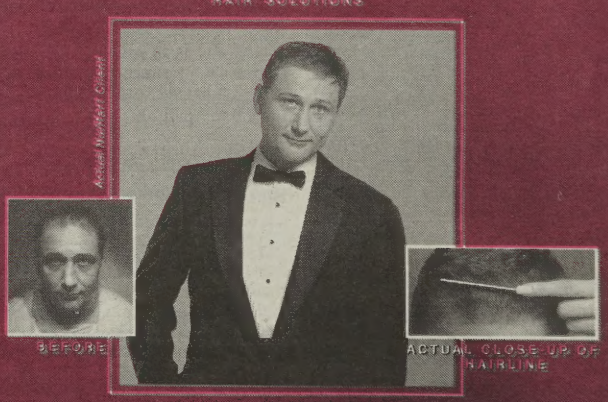


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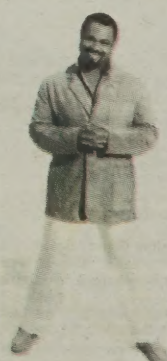

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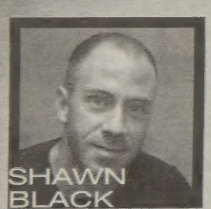


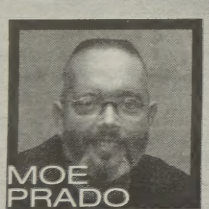


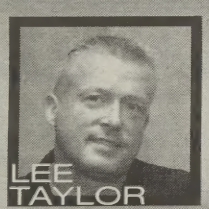


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# national news

## Santorum would advise his child to resist gay 'temptations'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) would advise his children to resist any "temptations" of being gay, according to an interview published Tuesday. In the interview with GQ magazine, Santorum was asked what he would do if one of his six children told him of gay urges. "I would treat it like I would any other thing my child comes to me with," Santorum answered. "Try to deal with it in a loving, supportive way." He continued, "You try to point out to them what is the right thing to do. And we have many temptations to do things we shouldn't do. That doesn't mean we have to give in to those temptations. I have temptations, as we all do, all the time, to do things we shouldn't do. Whether we have that disposition because of environmental factors, genetic factors, whatever, it doesn't mean you have to submit. We are people of free will and free choices." The GQ interview focused largely on comments Santorum made to the Associated Press in April, when he said he has "no problem with homosexuality, I have a problem with homosexual acts" and compared homosexuality to bigamy, polygamy, incest and adultery.

Sen. **Rick Santorum** (R-Pa.) said in a magazine interview that if one of his children came out as gay, he would urge the child to resist temptation and to do 'the right thing.' (AP file photo)

### Ariz. gay couple sues to overturn marriage ban

PHOENIX (AP) — Two Phoenix men went to court to get a marriage license despite Arizona laws banning gay marriages. Harold Donald Standhardt, 34, and Tod Alan Keltner, 37, filed a special-action lawsuit in the Arizona Court of Appeals against the state and the clerk of Maricopa County Superior Court. The lawsuit asks that the Court of Appeals overturn two state laws that allow marriages only between men and women and also order the court clerk to issue a marriage license to Standhardt and Keltner. The men were denied a marriage license when they applied for one, according to the lawsuit filed July 7. Standhardt and Keltner "have been in [a] committed relationship for over six years and have lived together and resided in Maricopa County for over five years," their lawsuit stated. The lawsuit said the ban on gay marriages, enacted in 1996, violates various state and federal constitutional protections, including the Arizona Constitution's right to privacy. "We have the same basic rights as any other couple," said Standhardt, the co-owner of a travel agency with Keltner.

### Lawmakers move to block gay marriage prohibition

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of House lawmakers are rallying opposition to a proposed constitutional amendment banning gay marriages — and they're using Vice President Dick Cheney's own words to make their point. In a letter to colleagues, gay Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.) quoted Cheney as saying the same-sex marriage issue is appropriately decided by each state, and not by the federal government. "I think we ought to do everything we can to tolerate and accommodate whatever kind of relationships people want to enter into," Cheney said during a vice presidential debate in 2000. Republican lawmakers are rounding up co-sponsors for a constitutional amendment, favored by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) that would ban gay marriages nationwide. The move comes as the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is weighing whether to legalize same-sex unions.

### Gay prison guard awarded $624,000 in harassment case

BOSTON (AP) — A jury awarded a Suffolk County correction officer $624,000 after finding he was harassed at work because he is gay. Michael Salvi's car was twice vandalized while parked on the street at work and children's alphabet blocks glued together to spell "fag" were hand-delivered to his front porch, according to the complaint. Jurors at Suffolk Superior Court found that Salvi, who did not disclose his sexual orientation at work, was harassed by co-workers in the Suffolk County sheriff's department who circulated rumors about him, said his attorney, Robert Berluti. But the jury did not agree that Salvi's transfer to different work assignments was retaliation for his complaints about the harassment. Berluti said his client, who is in his early 30s, attempted suicide by jumping off the Neponset Bridge, but survived. Eventually, he quit the job in April 2000.

### Iowa city yanks rainbow off signs after complaint

NEVADA, Iowa (AP) — The city of Nevada, Iowa, yanked pictures of a rainbow off signs at local parks after an angry resident claimed it promotes being gay and immorality. The signs, placed in seven city parks, were intended to promote a local character-development program and its six rainbow-colored pillars depicting respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring and citizenship. The CharACTer Nevada program is a local chapter of the Los Angeles-based "Character Counts!" program. In a letter presented to a recent city council meeting, Don Juhl had a different interpretation of the rainbow. "The thought that our city was being asked to endorse homosexuality and prominently display this public badge of the homosexual community makes a mockery of the word 'character'," Juhl said. Because of the opposition, the board that oversees CharACTer Nevada has removed the signs.

**From staff and wire reports**

national news

# Marriage dominates Democratic presidential forum

## HRC event hailed as historic first as seven of nine contenders appear

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — Seven of the nine Democratic presidential candidates responded to, and in some cases struggled over, questions about gay marriage Tuesday during a first-of-its-kind presidential candidates forum sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group.

The event was held in a 500-seat amphitheater at D.C.'s Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, which was filled to capacity by HRC members and supporters. The forum attracted extensive news media coverage, including gavel to gavel coverage by C-SPAN.

Sam Donaldson, the ABC News senior correspondent and moderator of the forum, set the tone when he opened the questioning by asking presidential candidate and U.S. Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), "You support civil unions but you do not support gay marriage. Why not?"

Kerry responded by saying he supports the full legal and economic rights and benefits of marriage for same-sex couples. He appeared to struggle with an explanation of why he believes civil unions would be on par with marriage when Donaldson interrupted him.

"If you're implying there's no distinction between civil unions and marriage, then why not support marriage?" Donaldson said. "What's the distinction, senator?"

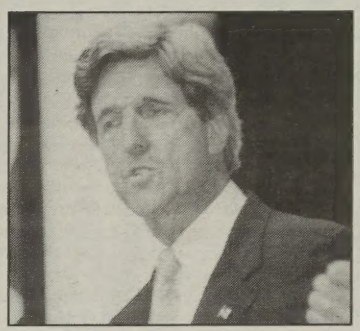
"The distinction is in the body of America that culturally, historically and religiously views marriage very differently," Kerry said. "Marriage is viewed as a union between men and women, and that is a historical and cultural view that I believe. And that's my position."

Kerry's response was greeted with loud hisses from many in the audience. The audience applauded earlier when Kerry expressed strong support for virtually all other gay rights issues, including support for lifting the ban on gays in the military.

### Three candidates support gay marriage

In marked contrast to Kerry, presidential candidate Al Sharpton, the fiery New York City preacher and civil rights activist, drew roaring applause and cheers when he declared his unequivocal support for gay marriage.

Sharpton told gay Democrats earlier this year that he is the only one of the candidates in a position to perform a gay marriage and would gladly do so. He told the HRC forum on Tuesday that gay marriage should not be treated any differently than a "black marriage or a white marriage."



Sen. **John Kerry** (D-Mass.) drew hisses from the crowd at the Human Rights Campaign Democratic presidential candidates forum when he said he is opposed to same-sex marriages. (Photo by Luis Gomez)

"The inference of the question is that gays are not human beings and cannot make a decision like other human beings," Sharpton said.

Two other candidates — former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun (D-Ill.) and Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) — also said they support gay marriage, although Braun said she would leave the issue up to individual states.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) drew hisses when he, too, said he opposes gay marriage. Unlike Kerry, Lieberman stopped short of supporting full rights and benefits for same-sex couples through civil unions. Lieberman instead called for a "methodical review" of the benefits that could be obtained through a civil union, saying he did not want to make a "snap judgement" on such a complex issue.

Howard Dean, the former Vermont governor, and U.S. Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.), the former House Democratic leader, sided with Kerry, saying they oppose gay marriage but favor equal rights and benefits for same-sex couples through civil unions. Dean noted that he is the only candidate to have signed a gay civil unions bill, which the Vermont legislature passed.

When pressed by Donaldson on why they thought civil unions were better than marriage, the two said civil unions would provide gay couples with the same benefits as marriage. After more prodding from Donaldson, they acknowledged that they could not support gay marriage on cultural and religious grounds.

In the practical world of politics, Gephardt said, civil unions are "doable" while gay marriage is unattainable at the present time.

### Edwards, Graham are no-shows

Sens. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) and John Edwards (D-N.C.), the two other candidates seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, did not attend the HRC forum. Both sent word saying they wanted to attend but could not do so due to previous commitments.

In an HRC survey of presidential candidates, which HRC released at the start of the forum, Graham and Edwards said they oppose gay marriage. Graham indicated he supports extending marital rights and benefits to gay couples through some form, which he did not name or define. Edwards said in the survey that he supports partnership benefits for gay couples in a "committed, long-term relationship," but did not disclose his position on civil unions.

HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch called the forum a historic first for the gay civil rights movement. The fact that seven out of nine Democratic presidential candidates agreed to attend a gay group's forum shows that gays are viewed as an important part of the American electorate, Birch said.

Under ground rules set by the candidates and HRC, forum officials had to ensure that the event did not turn into a debate, HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg said. The candidates remained out of site behind a stage until moderator Donaldson called on them, one at a time, to appear before a podium to respond to his questions. Members of the audience were not permitted to ask questions.

The candidates were allowed to make brief opening and closing statements, in which they could say whatever they wished. Most of them used their opening or closing statements to discuss non-gay issues.

Donaldson said he decided to devote his questioning to just two issues: gay marriage versus civil unions and gays in the military. He noted that, based on his review of the candidates' positions, he saw essentially no significant difference among them on their support for gay civil rights. Marriage was the one area, Donaldson said, where disagreement existed.

All of the candidates except Graham stated in their HRC survey responses that they favor repealing the Pentagon's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which requires that gays be discharged from the military if they disclose their sexual orientation. When Donaldson asked them how they would convince a skeptical Congress to repeal the DADT policy, all said they would use the authority and prestige of the office of the president.

"It's an issue of equality before the law," said Kucinich, who vowed to invoke his powers as commander-in-chief to direct military commanders to accept the notion of gays serving opening in the armed forces.

Birch told reporters at a press briefing after the forum that some of the candidates — as well as much of the American public — are struggling over how to separate the religious aspects of marriage from the civil aspect, which confers federal and state legal rights and benefits.

According to Birch, HRC and other gay civil rights organizations hope to convince lawmakers and the public that churches and other religious institutions would not be forced to endorse same-sex marriage if a state were to legalize "civil" marriage for same-sex couples.

HRC will not make gay marriage a litmus test issue that candidates must support to obtain HRC's endorsement, Birch said. HRC will endorse a presidential candidate based on the "totality of issues" of concern to gay voters, she said.

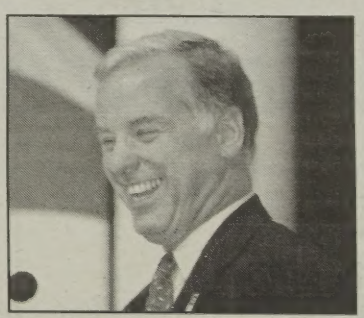
**Chrissy Gephardt**, the lesbian daughter of Rep. **Dick Gephardt** (D-Mo.), joined her father at a news conference after the HRC forum Tuesday. She said she disagrees with her father's views on gay marriage; he opposes them. (Photo by Luis Gomez)

"What is remarkable is you have seven of the nine of these candidates turning up at a gay presidential forum," Birch said, "and more than that, that they are all well along the path to providing equal rights to gay and lesbian Americans and their families."

The dominance of the issue of gay marriage at the HRC forum highlights what some gay political activists say could pose a dilemma for both gays and the Democratic Party in the upcoming presidential election.

With President Bush and the Republican Party opposed to both gay marriage and civil unions, some political pundits say the Republicans could use gay marriage as a "wedge issue" against whichever Democratic candidate wins that party's nomination in the 2004 election.

Birch said during the forum that President Bush and any other Republican candidates for president will be invited to a forum later. That remark drew laughter from a skeptical crowd.



Former Gov. **Howard Dean** (D-Vt.) told the HRC audience he supports giving gay men and lesbians all the benefits of marriage in the form of civil unions, but could not support gay marriage. (Photo by Luis Gomez)

**MORE INFO**

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A video of the HRC forum, along with candidate responses to the HRC presidential candidate survey, can be accessed at the HRC Web site, www.hrc.org

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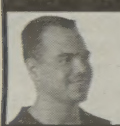

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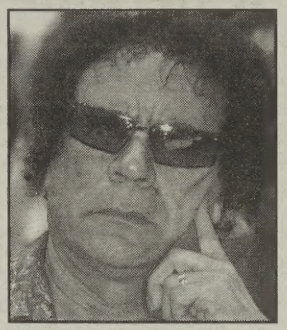
# international news

## Gadhafi says 'straights' need not fear HIV and AIDS

MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP) — Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi told a conference of African leaders that Africans who are "straight" need not fear AIDS, which is ravaging many countries on the continent. Speaking through a translator, Gadhafi drew some laughter with his reference to AIDS only affecting gays. He told the closing session of the eight-day annual African Union conference, "All you have to do is observe the rules. If you are straight, you have nothing to fear from AIDS." Of the 42 million people worldwide infected with HIV, 29 million live in sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS has already killed more than 17 million in sub-Saharan Africa and is the leading cause of death among South African women. More than 11 million African children have lost at least one parent to the pandemic. The devastating AIDS pandemic was one of the major themes of President Bush's recent five-nation African trip.



Libyan ruler **Moammar Gadhafi** said last weekend that straight people do not need to worry about AIDS. (Photo by Themba Hadebe/AP)

### Britain to repeal anti-gay Section 28 law, Tories say

LONDON — Section 28, Britain's notorious anti-gay law proposed and passed by Margaret Thatcher's conservative government in 1988, is at last to be repealed, British news outlets reported last week. The current Tory leadership made clear that they will drop long-standing support for the law when its repeal comes before the House of Lords' Grand Committee. They are considering other options, though. One substitute reform gives parents the right to scrutinize all sex education materials used in the schools and the other is a "code of practice" local authorities will be urged to follow. Though the current Tory leader, Iain Duncan Smith, voted to keep Section 28 on the books when it last went before the House of Commons, a lack of support for his position and the ridicule his position earned conservatives forced a change in strategy. Moderating the Tory position on gay issues has been a goal of reformers in the party for years. They maintain that the party's reactionary hard line on gay issues earns them few votes in modern Britain.

### Civil union law takes effect in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES — A law approved last December recognizing gay civil unions went into effect this week in the Argentina capital, according to the Christian Science Monitor. Despite the bill passing 29-10 in the city legislature, there is a notable resistance from some church leaders, a position backed by 44 percent of the population according to a recent poll. "We are opposed to this kind of law," Rev. Alberto Bochatey told the Newspaper. "It doesn't mean we are opposed to ... homosexual people at all as persons, as human beings, but we don't agree with this legislation." After years under military dictatorship, Argentina was democratized in 1983. Emilia Korenberg, who said she will soon take advantage of the law and legally join with her partner, said she was very pleased with the legislation. "This is an era of change," she said. "Ten years ago this could never have happened here.

### British couple beaten in their neighborhood

STORK-ON-TRENT, England — A group of teenagers allegedly beat a lesbian couple with baseball and cricket bats, after the couple had endured what they said was a 12-month gay-hate campaign in their neighborhood, according to a report in the Sentinel. "We have had nothing but grief since we moved here. The harassment has got so bad that it takes us about 10 minutes to pluck up the courage to walk out of the front door and go to buy a pint of milk," Jacqui Lauro, one of the women, told the Sentinel. The police are investigating the attack and may classify it as a hate crime if the evidence suggests that the couple was attacked based on their sexual orientation. The couple said they are seeking to relocate. "We shouldn't have to leave because we have done nothing wrong," Jacqui said, but added that the harassment is very common for her, her partner and her three children.

### Trans police unwelcome in Melbourne: survey

MELBOURNE, Australia — Large majorities of the public and the police officers in Melbourne do not support hiring transsexuals to the police force, according to a survey published in the (Melbourne) Herald Sun. The survey was taken after the paper learned that two transsexuals, one of whom has already passed the initial stages of the selection process, were seeking employment in the police force. Many police officers were quoted in the article raising concerns about suitability for the work, workplace environment, shared facilities and police image. "How can he be relied upon to make decisions about other people's lives while he's trying to deal with his own issues," one officer said. Despite the reservations of the officers, Equal Opportunity Commission Chief Executive Diane Sisley insists Australian law says the police cannot deny anyone a job based on gender identity. "The law is very clear," she told the Herlad Sun, adding that some of the officers' on-the-record comments were inappropriate.

**From staff and wire reports**

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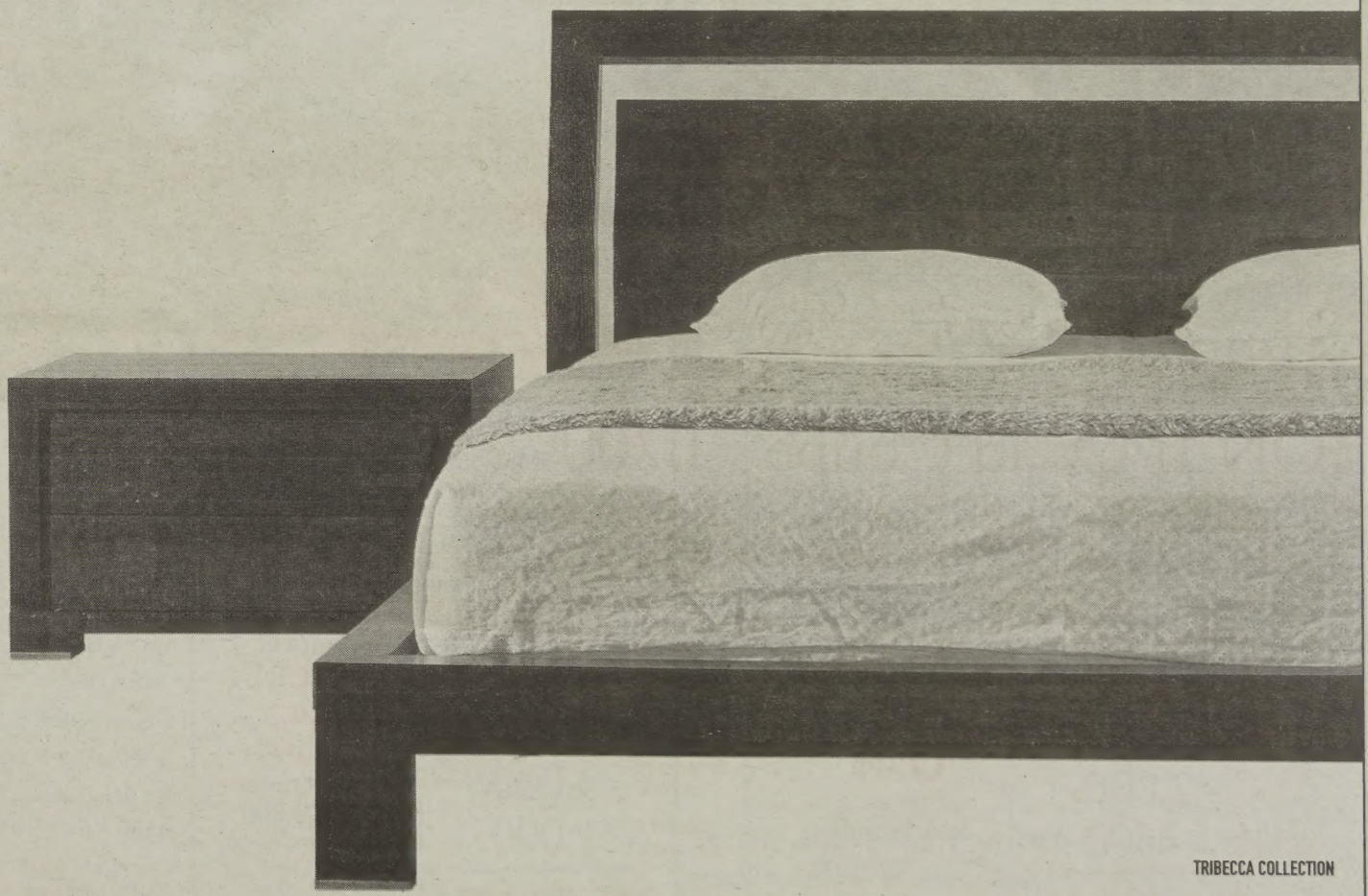

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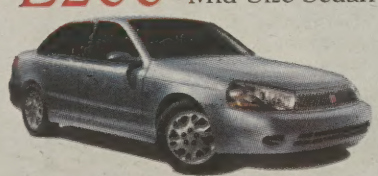

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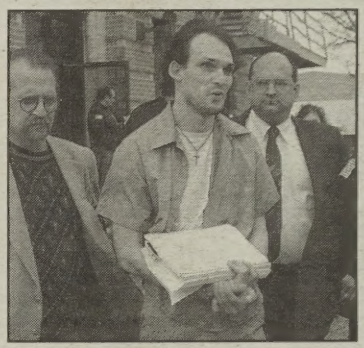
## Death-row inmate in Neb. loses bid for new trial

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Convicted triple murderer John Lotter will remain on death row. The Nebraska Supreme Court last week rejected Lotter's appeals for a new trial and commutation of his death sentence to life in prison. Lotter was convicted of the murders that inspired the critically acclaimed 1999 movie "Boys Don't Cry." One of the victims was Brandon Teena, a biological woman who lived as a man in southeast Nebraska. Nebraska's high court unanimously ruled that Lotter should not be sentenced to life in prison because his conviction and sentence were final before a 2002 U.S. Supreme Court decision. That ruling said juries, not judges, must decide if aggravating circumstances exist to merit the death penalty. Lotter was sentenced by a three-judge panel in 1996. Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning hailed the opinion, saying it was a landmark decision for the state. "It is a huge victory for the state and the victims of these crimes and their families," Bruning said.



The Nebraska Supreme Court rejected the appeals of **John Lotter**, who was convicted in the murder of Brandon Teena, a transgendered person. Lotter was seeking a new trial and commutation of his death sentence to life in prison. (Photo by Eric Keith/AP)

## Woman charged with infecting former boyfriend with HIV

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Perdita Harris, 31, was charged last week with a third-degree felony for knowingly spreading HIV to a partner through sexual intercourse. Her former boyfriend filed a police report in May after he learned he had contracted HIV. He told police he was infected by the woman, whom he had been dating for two years. Harris never told him she had the disease, the victim said. According to a police report, the woman was infected in 1994 and married a man who later died of the disease. The Fort Lauderdale man told investigators that he never had sexual relations with anyone else during the two years he was dating Harris and could only have gotten HIV from her. The 44-year-old man told the Miami Herald in a telephone interview that if Harris had told him from the beginning that she was infected, he would have respected her for her honesty. But now he's happy to see Harris in jail. "I feel like she should be punished," he said.

## Rudolph pleads innocent on new indictment

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Serial bombing suspect Eric Rudolph pleaded innocent last week to a fatal abortion clinic bombing as he was arraigned on a new indictment that will allow prosecutors to seek the death penalty. Rudolph is also suspected of bombing a gay nightclub in Atlanta. Rudolph entered the same plea last month on the old two-count indictment, which charges he killed an off-duty Birmingham police officer by setting off a bomb at an abortion clinic. The new indictment contains the same charges, but adds language that a federal magistrate said will allow the government to seek the death penalty, including charges that Rudolph knowingly created a grave risk of death to one or more persons. Attorney General John Ashcroft has not made a decision on whether to seek the death penalty. Rudolph's attorneys, Richard Jaffe and William Bowen, said their client maintains his innocence.

## Pa. teen convicted in death of brother

GREENSBURG, Pa. (AP) — A 15-year-old teen was convicted of third-degree murder Monday for allegedly beating his brother to death with a claw hammer. A jury found Ian Bishop guilty in the 2002 death of 18-year-old Adam Bishop, also convicting him of conspiracy to commit murder. He faces up to 40 years in prison on each charge. Defense attorney Tom Ceraso said he was disappointed with the verdict, although his client was spared the life sentence a first-degree murder conviction would have brought. Prosecutor Patrick Noonan said he was satisfied with the conviction. Prosecutors argued that Ian Bishop, then 14, killed his brother because he often sided with his parents in disciplining Ian. Prosecutors also suggested Ian disliked his brother because he thought the older sibling was gay. The defense contended Ian Bishop was acting in self-defense during a fight.

## N.C. judge declares state sodomy law unconstitutional

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — A Mecklenburg district judge threw out two charges against a man accused of soliciting sodomy in a public park as he declared North Carolina's sodomy law unconstitutional. Mecklenburg District Judge Nate Proctor said the state's law barring anal or oral sex for anyone except married couples was invalidated by a Supreme Court ruling last month that overturned the Texas sodomy law. Proctor's ruling is not binding. It will be up to higher courts to decide whether the crime-against-nature law should stand after the Supreme Court ruling. Assistant District Attorney Brian Prewitt said the case probably will be appealed to the state Supreme Court. Defense attorney Ray Warren, a gay former superior court judge called Proctor's decision "potentially precedent-setting," if a higher court upholds it.

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national news

# Race for first U.S. gay channel continues

## Canadian offering now available stateside

By MIKE FLEMING

Plans by three companies to launch the first U.S. gay television network continue in fits and starts, with projects from an entertainment heavyweight and an independent network still on hold as a gay channel in Canada attempts limited distribution here.

PrideVision, a gay cable channel based in Canada, announced July 12 that it is now available through Largo Communications, a satellite distributor in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., that provides access to Canadian satellite company Bell ExpressVu.

"We are extremely excited that our Canadian channel is available to audiences in the U.S.A.," said Bruce Glawson, vice president of Canadian programming for PrideVision.

The cost to receive the channel is $5 per month on top of the $16 monthly Canadian satellite fee and the cost of installing and maintaining regular U.S.-based dish service.

Programs on PrideVision include repackaged series from other networks as well as original programming and late-night erotica.

Officials with PrideVision originally said a U.S. version of its network would be available last fall. In November, they cited stalls in contract deals when the network didn't materialize.

The original plan to convert the concept into a U.S. channel is still on hold, Glawson said.

"Although PrideVisionTV may be available on a select few cable systems in the U.S. at an unknown time in the future, this Canada-produced channel is made available now to anyone who wants it via the Canadian satellite service," he said.

After recent reports that media giant Viacom shelved its plans to launch a gay cable network, company officials remain mum on the project.

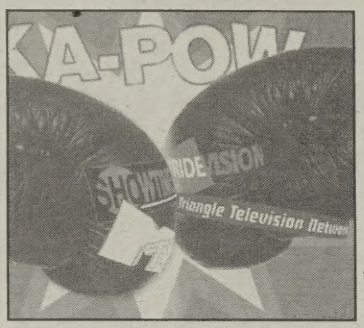
Viacom properties Showtime and MTV announced in January 2002 that they would team up to research the viability of a gay-oriented network. In May 2002, informal advisory panels met in several U.S. cities, including a group in Atlanta.

Panel members said a spring 2003 launch date was discussed, and an internal Viacom memo leaked on the Internet in November said the channel had the working name "Outlet."

Viacom officials would not confirm details. When asked for an update last week, the company provided a statement it has circulated since last year.

"Due to the current economic climate, the timetable has slowed down for the development of a new network dedicated to programming to the gay and lesbian audience," according to the statement.

The Palm Springs, Calif.-based Triangle Television Network, which experienced multiple delays in its promise to launch a gay network on satellite, remains stymied.




In the battle to launch the first gay television network in the U.S., Viacom properties **Showtime** and **MTV**, as well as **Triangle Television Network**, continue to sit on plans as Canadian-based **PrideVision** completes a deal to air its channel here.

TTN, which changed its name from Gay Television Network after contract negotiations stalled with U.S. satellite giant Dish Network, has shown no movement since April 2002, when the contract with Dish Network was finalized. Its Web site lists programming to "watch for" but no start date.

TTN executives did not respond to interview requests by press time.

Even as U.S.-based gay channels falter, other networks increasingly program gay-themed shows that could make those efforts moot.

"Gay channel? We already have one," said Phil Rosenthal, entertainment columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times. "Clearly, cable networks have identified a fabulous target audience well worth wooing."

NBC airs the popular sitcom "Will & Grace" and the NBC-held Bravo network now boasts two gay shows — "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and "Boy Meets Boy" — in addition to specially scheduled gay film blocks throughout the year.

Other cable channels also air gay film blocks, and satellite provider Direct TV announced July 7 that it will show four to eight gay films a month on pay-per-view beginning on Aug. 29.

But there's still room for an all-gay network, said Larry Gross, author of "Up from Invisibility" about gays and the media.

"It's very important to have specialized programming, what you might call a place of your own," Gross said.

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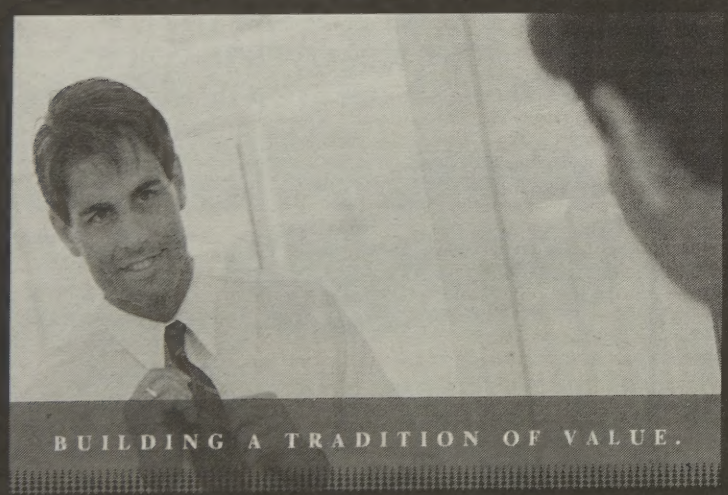

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national news

# Largest gay church considers leaving MCC

## Church dean resigns ordination during investigation by gay denomination

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

An investigation into alleged financial mismanagement at the world's largest gay church stopped dead in its tracks July 13 when Rev. Michael Piazza, dean of the Cathedral of Hope of Dallas, resigned his ministry credentials with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Piazza's announcement came two days before MCC's investigation of his leadership was set to conclude, and coincided with an announcement from the Cathedral of Hope's board of directors asking its 3,000 members to vote to disaffiliate the church from MCC.

"After investing the past 22 years of my life in MCC, leaving the denomination will be equally as difficult," Piazza said in a statement posted on the Cathedral's Web site. "It is vital that we find a way to do this with as much grace as possible."

Piazza said the MCC denomination is not "our enemy," and likened the situation to the break-up of a couple.

"This doesn't mean that we can't remain family and work together," he said. "A divorce does not mean that the past was all bad or that the person we are divorcing is bad, it simply means we need to get on with our individual lives."

MCC's investigation started after a church member filed a complaint against Piazza for allegedly giving health insurance to non-staff members, improperly reporting expenditures from his personal expense account and mismanaging the Cathedral's capital campaign fund, according to a report by Ken Upton, the Cathedral's executive director.

Cathedral leaders said in a written statement that concerns about the investigation prompted their decision to consider leaving MCC.

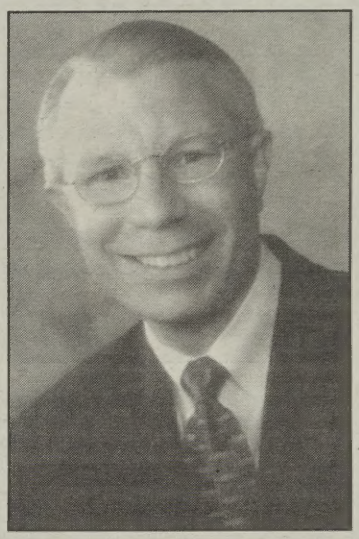
"The clergy, staff and board have no confidence that the denomination is capable of an honest resolution. ... The board has decided to put a stop to this and get back to the business of church," the statement said.

Piazza plans to continue serving as dean of the church, and the Cathedral's board called for a congregational meeting July 27 to consider severing ties with UFMCC.

Piazza and Cathedral staff did not respond to repeated interview requests before and after announcing Piazza's split with MCC. Kris Martin, media spokesperson for the Cathedral, said no interviews would be granted until after the congregation votes.

MCC officials issued a statement saying they "regret" the Cathedral's attempt to leave the denomination.

"If there are those who feel it is best to leave the global MCC community, we affirm that choice and pray God's abundant blessings on their future ministry," MCC said. "For those who wish to remain a part of MCC, the UFMCC will offer the encouragement and support of this vital worldwide movement."



Rev. **Michael Piazza**, dean of the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, renounced his ministry credentials with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches days before a UFMCC-led investigation was scheduled to end. (Photo courtesy of Cathedral of Hope)

No copies of the complaint are available to the public, and neither Cathedral nor MCC officials will publicly discuss the information being investigated, in accordance with MCC judicial procedures.

### Assets at stake

Currently, the Cathedral's affiliation with MCC dictates that a percentage of its contributed income go to the larger denomination, according to Rev. Don Eastman, MCC vice moderator.

Before 2003, other churches affiliated with MCC donated 10 percent of their annual contributed income to the denominational headquarters and district offices. But the Cathedral has operated under a different agreement since 1997, donating half its share in money and half in other resources like sophisticated video production, Eastman said.

In 2002, the Cathedral, MCC's largest member church, gave $113,000 to MCC headquarters. The Cathedral funds made up 7 percent of the nearly $1.6 that MCC headquarters collected that year from the 260 MCC-affiliated churches worldwide, according to MCC estimates.

Upton said the cathedral donates about $500,000 annually in cash and resources, according to the Dallas Morning News.

"There are other large churches," Eastman said. "The denomination itself is very healthy. We have never had a year in history when our membership was lower than the year before."

If the Cathedral's congregation votes to leave the larger denomination by more than a two-thirds vote, MCC has a right to collect the percentage of the church's assets that matches the percentage of church members who voted to stay with MCC, according to MCC bylaws.

And if the cathedral does not get a two-thirds vote and chooses to leave the denomination anyway, UFMCC is entitled to all of the church's net assets, according to the bylaws.

### Investigation criticized

The Cathedral of Hope considered disaffiliating with MCC several times over the past 10 years, according to Rev. Darlene Garner, the MCC staff person in charge of risk management who also headed the investigation over which Piazza resigned.

In June, Piazza and Cathedral of Hope's Rev. Mona West met with Eastman and Rev. Troy Perry, the gay founder of the MCC denomination, to discuss what would happen if the Cathedral left UFMCC, according to the Dallas Voice.

At that time, Piazza hoped disaffiliation wouldn't be necessary.

"We really are working and doing everything we can to make that not have to happen," Piazza told the Dallas Voice.

The Cathdral board said in written statements that the investigation then lasted longer than expected, causing detriment to the Cathedral's normal operations.

"The denomination continues to prolong the process with no assurance that this will end any time soon," the statement said. "This flawed process continues to rob the church of resources, impacting your staff."

But UFMCC officials contend the Cathedral of Hope was notified June 26 that the investigation would end on July 15, two days after Piazza's resignation.

"I handled the process according to the policies and procedures that are outlined in the UFMCC judiciary process without deviation," Garner said.

Terri Frey, the woman who filed the original complaint against Piazza, said she could confirm the June 26 notification because she received a copy of the letter from the MCC investigating committee.

"This seems like a drastic action to take in order to prevent the truth from being brought forward," Frey said in a statement posted at COHReform.org, a Web site she helped create.

Piazza's resignation rendered the investigation null and void, and MCC officials said they will not divulge any information obtained during the investigation.

A group of 24 people who call themselves the COH Reform Committee support the complaint filed by Frey because they want more accountability in the church's financial management, said Lisa Johnson, the reform group's co-chair.

To date, the Cathedral has never had an independent audit of its spending and doesn't plan on it, Johnson said.

"An independent audit speaks to the integrity of the church when you are collecting people's money," Johnson said. "I've picked up the phone book and every single church I've called does it."

Upton, the Cathedral's executive director and a Piazza supporter, told board members in May that Piazza's $10,000 expense account is a designated portion of his salary, and that the board lowered Piazza's salary by $10,000 when the expense account was created.

In the same report, Upton deemed Piazza's health insurance practices to be in compliance with the law and promised a complete summary of the history of expenditures with the capital campaign. No summary had been released by press time.

The Cathedral board announced on a Web site it created — COHReform.com, designed to counter COH Reform's actual Web site, COHReform.org — that a financial overview team comprised of church members who are "accountants and CPAs" will review finances and hold regular forums for concerned members, starting in August.

An independent audit would be too expensive for the church and require two church staff members to be fired, according to the church-operated Web site.

So far the cathedral has received $4.5 million paid toward capital campaign pledges and $5.5 million in additional gifts, according to Upton's May report. The new complex, complete with a 2,500-seat sanctuary, comes with an estimated price of $40 million.

The grandiose cathedral is designed by internationally renowned architect Philip Johnson and was originally envisioned to be a mecca for gay men and lesbians who are part of the UFMCC denomination.

Construction has been postponed indefinitely on the new cathedral, the Dallas Voice reported.

"We really do have to wait ... to even start talking about it again," Piazza told the paper. "We've just had to put it all on hold until the economy comes back and we emerge from this paranoid terrorism-oriented attitude that has obsessed Americans right now."

### MORE INFO

**Cathedral of Hope**
5910 Cedar Springs Road
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Dallas, TX 75235
214-351-1901
www.cathedralofhope.com
www.cohreform.com

**COH Reform Committee**
4009 Old Denton Road, PMB 111-165
Carrollton, TX 75007
972-394-1804
www.cohreform.org

**Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches**
8704 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069
310-360-8640
www.mccchurch.org

national news

# Mass. court misses deadline on gay marriage ruling

## Recent Canada, U.S. Supreme Court decisions may be causing delay

By JOE CREA

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court delayed indefinitely a ruling in a high profile case that could result in the legalization of gay marriage in the state.

The state's highest court effectively waived its own deadline, which stipulates that the judges have 130 days after hearing oral arguments to hand down a decision. That deadline passed on Monday. Lawyers familiar with the proceedings at the court have said the deadline is waived in about 10 percent of cases each year.

Should the Massachusetts court require the state to open up marriage to same-sex couples, the decision could dramatically alter the legal landscape for gay and lesbian couples in Massachusetts, and possibly the country, legal experts said.

Evan Wolfson, executive director of the Freedom to Marry group, said that it would be wise for the media to stop calling the court's decision to take more time "a delay because the case is controversial."

"That has been promulgated partly by the right wing," Wolfson said.

The 130-day "deadline" is merely an internal guideline for the court, not a rule, Wolfson said.

Wolfson cited a variety of reasons for why the court might be taking more time to hand down a ruling. He said that the Massachusetts judges could be working to incorporate the recent decision in Ontario, Canada, to legalize gay marriage and the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down sodomy laws into their ruling. Or they may be waiting on a single judge on the court to finish writing an opinion.

Sander Rikleen, a Boston lawyer who has studied the Supreme Judicial Court's record in handing down decisions, told the Boston Globe that in the 1999-2000 session, the court authored 181 opinions and missed the deadline 12 times. She added that the court took 204 days, the longest delay that year, to decide a zoning case.

The gay marriage case, Goodridge vs. Department of Public Health, was filed in April 2001 on behalf of seven gay and lesbian couples arguing that the freedom to marry the person of one's choice is protected under the state's Constitution.

Wolfson's group works with both gay and non-gay organizations to secure marriage rights equality nationwide. He said that trying to determine when the Massachusetts court will rule on gay marriage is "pointless" and argued that the time is better spent engaging straight people in a discussion about gay marriage.

Wolfson said he is not concerned that a ruling by the Massachusetts court in favor of same-sex marriage will be a "tipping point" that will galvanize social conservatives to pursue legal action.

**Evan Wolfson**, executive director of Freedom to Marry, said gay activists should not wait around for the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to rule on same-sex marriages, but should instead explain to straight people how current marriage laws affect them. (Photo by Clint Steib)

"The majority of Americans are now ready to support and accept full equality for gays and lesbians, including civil marriage," Wolfson said. "It doesn't mean that everyone accepts it, but we must make a renewed effort to make it happen."

Oral arguments were heard in the case in early March. Lawyers arguing against gay marriage cited a decision by the same court from 1810, in which marriage was defined as a "civil contract, founded in the social nature of man, and intended to regulate, chasten, and refine the intercourse between the sexes; and to multiply, preserve, and improve the species."

Arguing on behalf of the plaintiffs, lawyers said that within the past century, many states have removed various restrictions on marriage, such as removing a ban on interracial marriages and have frequently eliminated language from laws that subjugated women to their husbands.

Opponents also argued before the high court that to deny a marriage license to a gay couple did not constitute a "sufficiently grievous" constitutional violation. But lawyers defending the plaintiffs said that some of their clients were denied hospital visitation rights.

According to lawyers familiar with the case, the Massachusetts state supreme court received 3,500 legal briefs from lawyers and groups on both sides of the issue.

### MORE INFO

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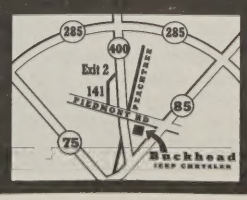
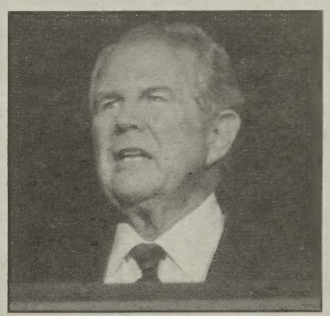


# religion news

## Broadcaster Pat Robertson calls for retirement of justices

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — Religious broadcaster Rev. Pat Robertson urged his nationwide audience to pray for God to remove three justices from the Supreme Court so they could be replaced by conservatives. "We ask for miracles in regard to the Supreme Court," Robertson said Monday on the Christian Broadcasting Network's "The 700 Club." Robertson has launched a 21-day "prayer offensive" directed at the Supreme Court in the wake of its 6-3 June vote that decriminalized sodomy. Robertson said in a letter on the CBN Web site that the ruling "has opened the door to homosexual marriage, bigamy, legalized prostitution and even incest." The same letter targets three justices in particular: "One justice is 83-years-old, another has cancer and another has a heart condition. Would it not be possible for God to put it in the minds of these three judges that the time has come to retire?" Judging from the descriptions, Robertson was referring to Justice John Paul Stevens, who was born in 1920, and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who had colon cancer surgery in 1999. Robertson said on NBC's "Today" show Wednesday that the identity of the third justice is Sandra Day O'Connor.



The 700 Club's' Rev. **Pat Robertson** is upset about the Supreme Court decision to overturn sodomy laws and urged his viewers to pray for the retirement of three justices who voted with the majority. (File photo by Clint Steib)

### ACLU files separate suit against city over Family Day

HONOLULU (AP) — In the second lawsuit filed against the city and county of Honolulu over this month's Family Day event, the American Civil Liberties Union accused the city of reserving entertainment at the event for "fundamentalist Christians." The suit filed in Circuit Court Monday seeks an injunction ordering an account of the city's spending on the event and a halt to similar celebrations in the future. The ACLU filed the suit on behalf of a range of Honolulu residents, from a minister to a ceramics instructor all of whom thought the July 5 Family Day festivities crossed the church-state line. The plaintiffs cited a musical segment of Family Day that included nine separate performances by Christian groups, while children's entertainment at the Keiki Stage in Kapiolani Park had a stated purpose to "save souls."

### Activists seek new law in anti-gay minister's hometown

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Outsiders often assume this community is a conservative place where social change occurs slowly. After all, a Kansas law specifically criminalizing gay sex remained on the books this year, after most other states had repealed theirs. And among the Kansas capital's 122,000 residents is the Rev. Fred Phelps, whose church has offended people across the nation with anti-homosexual pickets and signs with slogans like "God hates fags." But Topeka also is home to activists seeking an ordinance that would protect gay men and lesbians from discrimination. The City Council narrowly rejected such a proposal last year, and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force has made enacting an ordinance its priority. Activists, cheered by a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that invalidated state laws against gay sex, plan to revive their proposal, perhaps this coming fall.

### Gay rights protester interrupts Anglican synod

LONDON (AP) — The Church of England briefly halted a general assembly meeting Saturday after gay rights protesters took over the stage to protest the case of an openly gay clergyman whose appointment as a bishop divided the church. The seven demonstrators included protest leader Peter Tatchell, who held a poster with the words "Church of hate stop crucifying queers." About half of those at the synod meeting in York, northern England, left while Tatchell spoke about Rev. Jeffrey John's decision not to take up a new post as a bishop. Several Anglican bishops from around the world wrote to oppose John's selection, saying the appointment violated church teaching that gay sex is "incompatible with Scripture." "You can see the voice of bigotry and unreason here today," Tatchell said. "Your ears are deaf and your eyes are blind. You do not witness the suffering of gay and lesbian people."

### Anglican Church deals with divisive appointment aftermath

LONDON — The unity of the Anglican Church is significantly diminished after an openly gay canon and bishop-nominee Jeffrey John has factionalized the churches senior leadership, according to a report in the Guardian. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the head of the Anglican Church, championed the issue of open gays in the ministry "Unity is a gospel imperative when we recognize that it opens us to change, to conversion. When we realize how our life with Christ is somehow bound up with our willingness to abide with those we think are sinful and those we think are stupid ... the luxury of separation is really death, the pain of unity is really life for us," he said. Though John stepped down from the position of Bishop of Reading a week ago saying he wanted to avoid doing anything to divide the church, the issue of openly gay clergy is a growing issue within the church.

**From staff and wire reports**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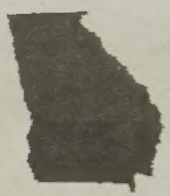

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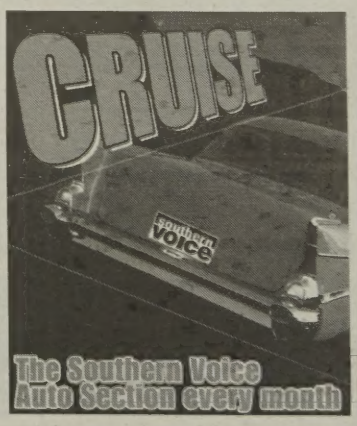


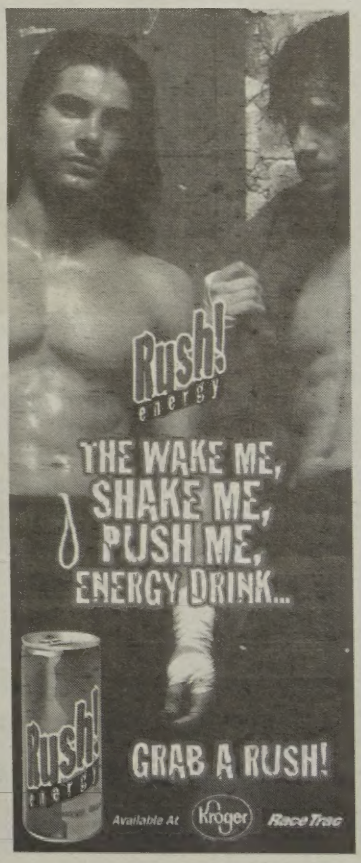

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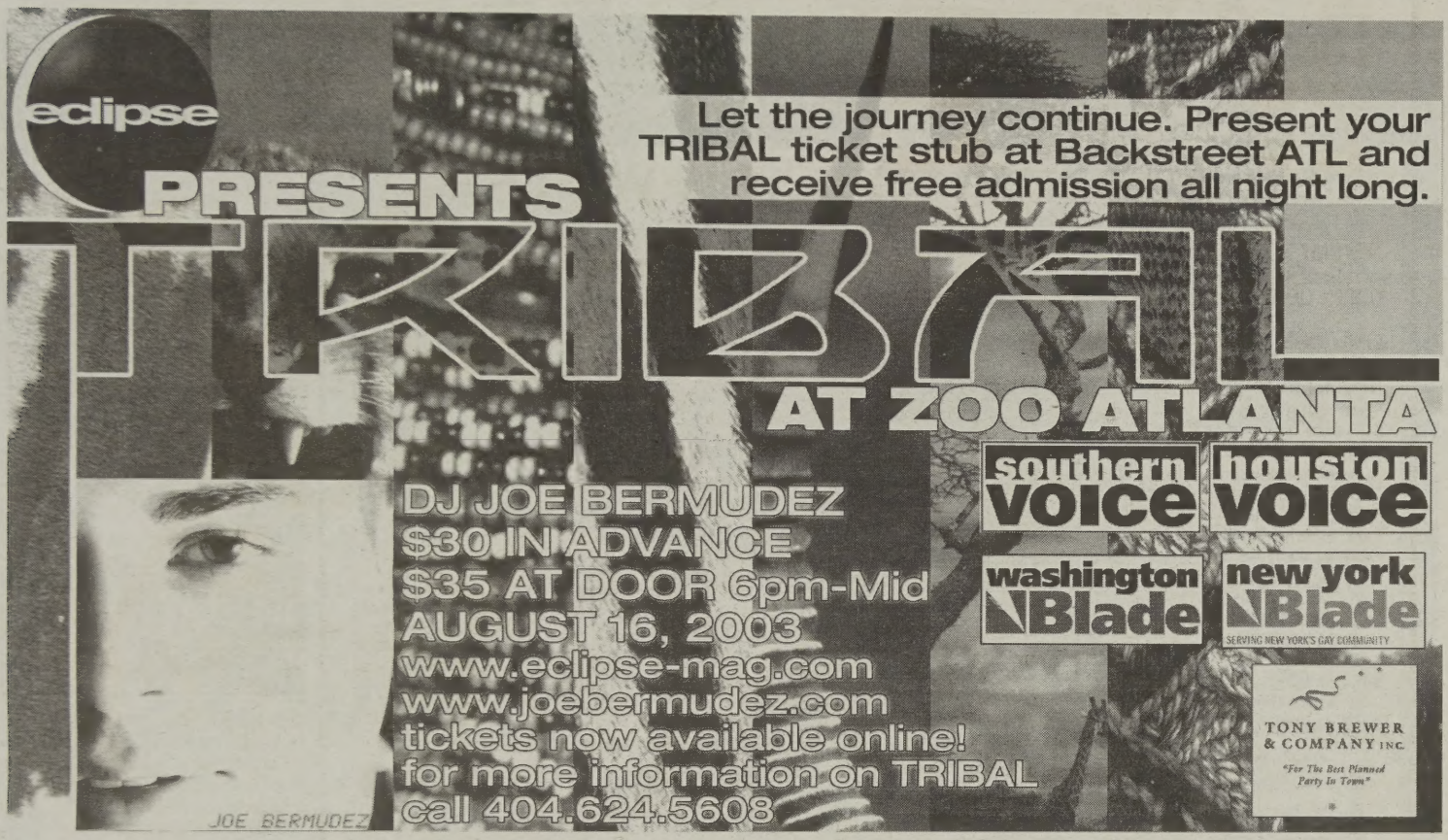
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# Making a splash for people with AIDS

## Annual 'Joining Hearts' party benefits HIV housing

By VAN GOWER

Last year's Joining Hearts pool party raised $55,000 for HIV housing programs, according to organizers. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT A DAY spent lounging in the sun or taking a dip in the pool among throngs of beautiful people can't accomplish great things for worthy charities.

This year's Joining Hearts pool party, set for July 26 at the Piedmont Park swimming pool, is an annual fund-raiser benefiting AID Atlanta and Jerusalem House, two local organizations that provide services to people living with HIV and AIDS.

Proceeds from Joining Hearts are dedicated specifically to providing housing options.

The 2003 theme, "SPF 16," has a double meaning, according to event chair Billy Milner.

"This is the 16th year of Joining Hearts fund-raising events," Milner said. "We also look at it like SPF equals protection from the sun, and this event contributes to protecting people from homelessness."

Joining Hearts events took on various forms in their 15-year history. The Piedmont Park swimming pool hosted the events for the last five years, and this is the final year at that location.

The organization was born out of the need for housing for people with HIV and AIDS. A small group of individuals realized that housing was an aspect of HIV care missed by existing fund-raisers, and they wanted to drum up support and monies to target that need.

As visibility of the annual Joining Hearts events grew and revenues increased, the group was able to fund a house in Little Five Points. The home, managed by AID Atlanta, was designed as a place where people with AIDS could live out their final days.

But the need for the facility decreased over time as medical science developed more effective treatments, Milner said.

"It reached a point with all the new meds that people weren't having to utilize the home," Milner said. "So AID Atlanta sold the house a few years ago. After that time, the monies we raised at our events were divided between the AID Atlanta housing program and Jerusalem House."

In its history, Joining Hearts' has netted over $510,000 for its two beneficiaries, according to the group. At last year's pool party alone, $30,000 was raised for AID Atlanta, and $25,000 went to Jerusalem House.

THE ANNUAL PARTY IS THE PRIMARY means of fund-raising for the group. The cost of producing it each year is met through the support of sponsors and patrons, so that 100 percent of ticket sales and tips are donated to the beneficiaries.

"One of the ways we really increased our revenue last year was by having patrons funding the party," Milner said.

The organization strives to maximize donations from the party, said Rhonda Creekmore, president of Joining Hearts.

"It is very important that everyone understands how hard we work to raise as much money as possible," Creekmore said. "There aren't too many true fund-raisers left in the world. We keep our expenses as low as possible so we can donate top dollar."

But while Joining Hearts organizers focus on raising money, Milner said they also make sure it's also great party.

"Overall, I think that people are aware of where the money goes," Milner said. "But a lot of them don't pay attention to it once they're there, once they're having a good time."

The City of Atlanta maintains the Piedmont Park pool and enforces a maximum capacity of 1,500, Creekmore said. Attendance usually averages around 1,200 to 1,300, she said.

"It's a very sought-after event," Creekmore said. "A lot of people bring folks in from out of town. I have a feeling that we will sell out this year."

Ticket prices increased slightly this year, and if the event does sell out, proceeds could reach $70,000, Milner said.

SPF16 kicks off with a cocktail party. Admission includes everything inside the gate, including food and drinks. Tipping is encouraged, according to organizers, as those proceeds are also given to AID Atlanta and Jerusalem House.

Later in the evening, the fun shifts to the dance floor, where Los Angeles DJ Bryan Pfeifer spins dance tunes. The atmosphere is further set by the contributions of Atlanta Light & Sound.

"With the pool being such an unusual venue and being outside, they get excited because of the locale," Milner said. "There are so many areas they can place their equipment. And it's really only dark for about two hours during the party, so they really pack a lot of excitement into those two hours."

### MORE INFO

**SPF16: Joining Hearts Pool Party**
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Piedmont Park swimming pool
400 Park Dr.
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www.joininghearts.org

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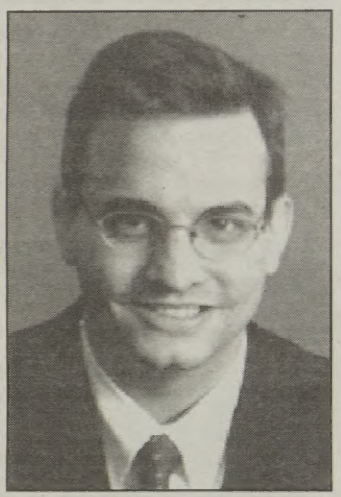
## notes



State Rep. **Rob Teilhet** (D-Atlanta), supporter of the Georgia Nondiscrimination Act of 2003, joins the July 20 Georgia Equality house party with writer Penny Mickelbury from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 3961 Harmony Walk Way, Smyrna. $25. RSVP at 678-309-9546, www.georgiaequality.org

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**SURVIVE & THRIVE!:** AIDS Survival Project sponsors two days of free HIV workshops and support groups on Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Grady IDC, 341 Ponce De Leon Ave. Pre-registration required. 404-874-7926, www.aidssurvivalproject.org

### SUNDAY JULY 20

**GAB FEST:** 'GAIA Collective: The Power of Thought' is an all-ages, women-only discussion of life experiences. Bring a potluck dish at 6 p.m. to Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-522-9912, www.chariscircle.org

**FAMILY SUPPORT:** PFLAG Atlanta hosts its monthly meeting from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Philip, 2744 Peachtree Road NW. 770-662-6475, www.pflagatl.org

### TUESDAY JULY 22

**DO-SI-DO:** The Hotlanta Squares teach square dancing to Fourth Tuesday members at 6:30 p.m. at Sheraton Buckhead Hotel, 3405 Lenox Road NE. Pre-register at 770-662-4353 or www.fourthtuesday.org

# community calendar

## SATURDAY JULY 19

**ATLANTA MEN FOR ALL CULTURES.** Gay men from all walks of life volunteer for Project Open Hand at 9 a.m. at 176 Ottley Drive NE. Contact AMFAC at www.AtlMenforAllCultures.org

**CHARIS CIRCLE BENEFIT.** Singer-songwriter Melanie Hammet and others perform to raise funds for Charis programming at 6 p.m. at Sweet Java Brown, 1994 Hosea L. Williams Drive. 404-522-9912, www.chariscircle.com

**KIDS' STORYTIME.** Children's author Miriam Carroll reads from her books and puts some fun in your child's summer at 11 a.m. at Charis Books and More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-522-9912, www.chariscircle.org

**POOL PARTY.** Atlanta Men for All Cultures hosts a pool party from 4 – 10 p.m. To request info and map, visit www.AtlMenforAllCultures.org

**To add a listing**, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

**POOL PARTY.** Lesbian networking group Fourth Tuesday hosts a pool party and karaoke from 5 – 9 p.m. where members invite friends who may want to join. 770-662-4353 or www.fourthtuesday.org

## SUNDAY JULY 20

**CHARIS CIRCLE.** GAIA Collective: The Power of Thought is an all-ages women-only time to discuss life experiences. Bring a potluck dish. 6 p.m. at Charis Books and More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-522-9912, www.chariscircle.org

**PFLAG ATLANTA.** Monthly meeting from 3 – 5 p.m. Everyone welcome, at the Cathedral of St. Philip, 2744 Peachtree Road NW. 770-662-6475, www.pflagatl.org

## MONDAY JULY 21

## ONGOING EVENTS

**HOTLANTA SQUARES.** Beginner classes in high-energy square dancing. No dress code, no pressure, and no dance partner or experience necessary. 7-10 p.m. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. www.iagsdc.org/hotlanta, hotlantasquares@aol.com

**LAMBDA ALLIANCE.** 7 p.m. UGA's LGBT student organization. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. Athens, GA. 706-583-8297 or www.uga.edu/lambda

## TUESDAY JULY 22

**ATLANTA MEN FOR ALL CULTURES.** Gay men from all walks of life meet at 7:30 p.m. for monthly video night. To request info and map, visit www.AtlMenforAllCultures.org

**SQUARE DANCING.** Fourth Tuesday hosts Hotlanta Squares, who will teach the ladies square dancing to all kinds of music; doors open at 6:30 p.m. at Sheraton Buckhead Hotel, 3405 Lenox Road NE. Pre-register at 770-662-4353 or www.fourthtuesday.org

## ONGOING EVENTS

**CHARIS CIRCLE.** Weekly meeting of high school age women writers. 5-6:30 p.m. Charis Books And More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-524-0304, www.chariscircle.org

**GEORGIA DYKES ON BIKES.** 7 p.m. No rules. No drama. Freedom to be. Cowtippers, GeorgiaDOB@aol.com or www.georgia.dykesonbikes.org

**RAINBOW CENTER MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP.** 12:15-1:30 p.m. Gay or bisexual men. www.therainbowcenter.org or 404-885-9776

**RAINBOW GRINGOS.** Gringo's Mexican Cantina donates 20 percent of sales to CHRIS Rainbow Home. Every Tuesday.1238 DeKalb Ave. 404-522-8666

## WEDNESDAY JULY 23

**CHARIS CIRCLE.** Author Penny Mickelbury reads from her mystery novel 'Love Notes' at 7:30 p.m. at 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-522-9912, www.chariscircle.org

**MUSICAL CULTURE.** In conjunction with the National Black Arts Festival, Ferst Center for the Arts hosts "Imani Winds," featuring musicians with African American and Latin heritage, at 8 p.m. on the Georgia Tech campus at 349 Ferst Drive NW. 404-730-7315, www.nbaf.org; 404-894-9600, www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu

## THURSDAY JULY 24

**CHARIS CIRCLE.** Virginia Spencer Carr discusses her book "Lonely Hunter," a biography of Georgia-born author Carson McCullers, at 7:30 p.m. at Charis Books and More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-522-9912, www.chariscircle.org

## ONGOING EVENTS

**ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS.** Rehearsals 7 p.m. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Road. 404-320-1030 or www.agmchorus.org

**BOYTALK.** GLBTQ's ages18-24. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

**GET YOUR LIFE.** 12-4 p.m. For young black gay and bisexual men. Georgia State, Dorchester Room. 44 Courtland St. 404-870-7746, deeperlove@aidatlanta.org

**LAGENDER INC.** 6-7:30 p.m. Transgender/Transsexual support group in collaboration with Aniz Inc. 223 Mitchell St., Suite 200. 404-767-5644

**LATINO GROUP.** GLBTQ's of all ages. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

**LESBIAN READING GROUP.** 404-467-4278

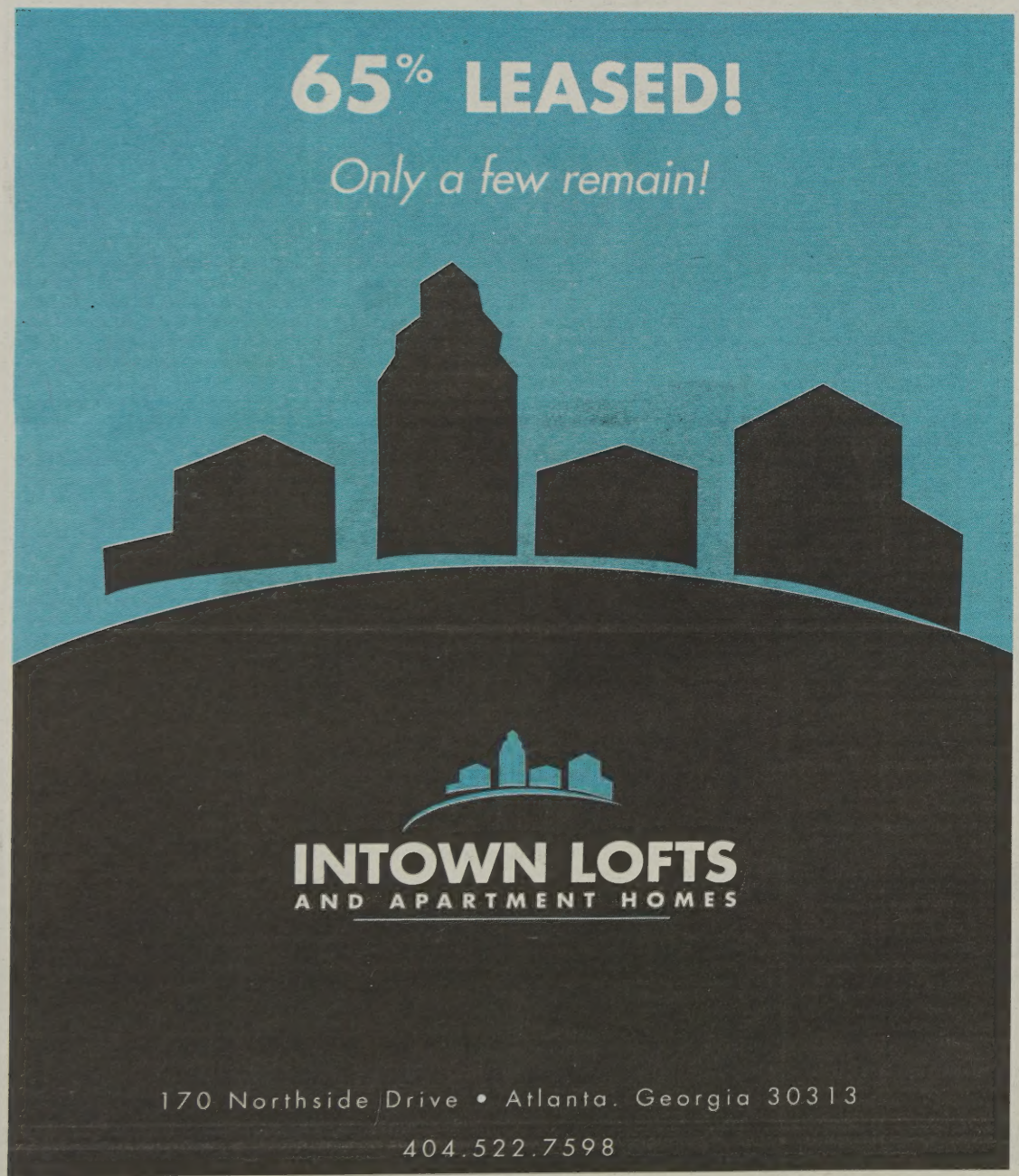
**WOMYN'S GROUP.** GLBTQ's ages 18-24. 6:30-8 p.m. YouthPride, 107 N. Candler Road. 404-378-7722, www.youthpride.org

## FRIDAY JULY 25

**ATLANTA MEN FOR ALL CULTURES.** White water rafting trip in North Carolina through Sunday, July 27. For more info, contact AMFAC at www.AtlMenforAllCultures

## ONGOING EVENTS

**LAMBDA GROUP-GGG (GWINNETT GALS & GUYS).** Bimonthly events 1st and 3rd Fridays at 7:30 p.m. For complete info contact Bob & Dave Cozzoinger at 770-457-5264, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LambdaGroup-GGG




# occasions

## ANNIVERSARY

Pastor **Randall Morgan**, senior pastor of New Covenant Church of Atlanta, and **Johnny Layton-Morgan** celebrated 10 years of a happy marriage on July 17.

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Black & White Men Together Atlanta members Robert G. and Lenard M. on July 18.

"Happy birthday to Tomé Nail on July 19. Love, John."

Happy birthday to former Window Media graphic designer Bonnie Naugle on July 20.

Happy birthday to Joan Sherwood, former Southern Voice special publications editor, on July 21.

"Happy birthday to Model T bartender Danny on July 22. Best to you always."

# spiritual resources

## CATHOLIC

**CATHOLIC SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.** Sunday Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:30 a.m. Mon-Fri. 12:10 p.m. 48 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW. 404-521-1866, www.catholicshrineatlanta.org

**ST. MICHAEL THE DEFENDER CATHOLIC CHURCH.** Non-Roman parish. Sunday mass 9:30 a.m. 1071 Delaware Ave. SE. 404-627-7212, www.stmichaelatlanta.org

## EPISCOPAL

**ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL.** Sundays, 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. with Holy Communion. 634 W. Peachtree. 404-881-0835, www.allsaintsatlanta.org

**Episcopal Church of the Epiphany.** Sundays, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-373-8338, info@epiphany.org

**Integrity/Atlanta.** The gay and lesbian justice ministry of the Episcopal church. Third Fridays, 7 p.m. All Saints' Episcopal Church, Atlanta. 770-642-3183, integrityatlanta@yahoogroups.com

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.** Wednesdays 12:10 p.m.; Sundays, 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m. 1790 LaVista Rd. 404-634-3336, www.stbartsatlanta.org

**ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.** (May 25 — August 31 Sundays, 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.) Sundays 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., & 6 p.m. 435 Peachtree St. NE 404-873-7600, www.stlukesatlanta.org

**ST. PATRICK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.** Sundays, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist. 4755 North Peachtree Road. 770-455-6523, www.stpat.net.

## JEWISH

**CONGREGATION BET HAVERIM.** Fourth Fridays, vegetarian/dairy potluck dinner 6:30 p.m. All other Fridays, Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m. Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 W Howard Ave. 404-607-0054, www.congregationbethaverim.org

## LUTHERAN

**ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH.** Sunday 10 a.m. 3264 Northside Parkway NW. 404-237-4413, www.stlukeatlanta.org

## METHODIST

**INMAN PARK UNITED METHODIST** Church. Sundays, 10:55 a.m. 404-522-9322

**SAINT MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** Wednesday dinner 6:00 p.m., program. 6:45 p.m.; Sundays 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. 781 Peachtree St. NE. 404-873-2636, www.stmarksumc.org

**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** Sundays, 10:45 a.m. 265 Washington Street SW. 404-659-6236

## METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC)

**CHRIST COVENANT MCC.** Sundays 11 a.m.; Wednesday, choir practice 7 p.m.; Thursdays, karate classes 7 p.m.109 Hibernia Ave. 404-373-2933, www.christcovenantmcc.org

**FIRST MCC OF ATLANTA.** Sundays 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Bible study 7 p.m., choir rehearsal 7 p.m., orchestra 7:30 p.m. 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143, www.firstmcc.com

**MCC AUGUSTA.** Sundays, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. 311 7th Street, Augusta. 706-722-6454

**OUR HOPE MCC.** Sundays, 11 a.m. Presbyterian Student Center, 1250 S. Lumpkin St., Athens. 706-202-3723

**TRUTH CENTER MCC.** Sundays, 11 a.m. Meets at Georgia Citizens Coalition on Hunger facility, 9 Gammon Ave. I-85 at Virginia Ave. exit. 770-951-1380, truthcentermcc@bellsouth.net

## PRESBYTERIAN

**CLIFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.** Sundays, 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Bible study 7:30 p.m. 369 Connecticut Ave. 404-373-3253, cliftonchurch@mindspring.com, www.nighthospitality.net

**DRUID HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.** Sundays, 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Young adult Bible Study, 7:45 p.m. 1026 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-875-7591, www.dhpc.org

**NACOOCHEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.** Sundays, 10 a.m. 260 Hwy. 255 North, Sautee-Nacooche. 706-878-2226, www.nacoochee presbysterian.org

**ORMEWOOD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.** Educational opportunities, 9 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Worship, 11 a.m., Sanctuary. Monthly upper at 6 p.m., third Sunday.1071 Delaware Ave. SE, Atlanta. www.ormewoodparkpres.org. 404-627-2216

## RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

**FIRST CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE.** Sundays, 11 a.m. 3025 Maple Dr. NE, Buckhead. 404-233-2061

**MARIETTA/KENNESAW MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE.** Sundays, 10:30 a.m. Wingate Inn - Magnolia Room, 750 Cobb Place Blvd., Kennesaw. 770-656-8467, revlarryhollis@hotmail.com

**NORTH POINT CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE.** Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 100 Hannover Park Road, Suite 160. 770-552-5889, www.npcrs.org

**TRINITY CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE.** Sundays, 11 a.m. Meets in Frazer Center. 1815 S. Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-296-6064

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

**GEORGIA MOUNTAINS UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, DAHLONEGA.** Sundays, 11 a.m. 439 South Park Street. 706 864-0661, www.gmuuc.org

**MOUNTAIN LIGHT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, ELLIJAY.** Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 3423 Turniptown Rd. 706-636-4935. www.mluuc.org

**NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION.** A welcoming congregation. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 1025 Mt. Vernon Hwy. NW. 770-955-1408, www.nwuuc.org

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUGUSTA.** Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 3501 Walton Way Extension, Augusta. 706-733-7939, www.uucsra.org

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SAVANNAH.** Troup Square. Sundays, 11 a.m. 323 Habersham. Street, at East Macon & East Harris. 912-234-0980, www.jinglebellschurch.org

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ATLANTA.** Sundays, 9:30 a.m. 1911 Cliff Valley Way (off I-85 N Access Road). 404-634-5134. www.uuca.org

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF GWINNETT COUNTY.** Sundays, 11 a.m. 12 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville. 770-717-7913, www.uucg.org

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF MARIETTA.** Sundays, All-inclusive service, 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. 1240 Villa Rica Road. 770-528-9542, www.uucm.org

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION METRO ATLANTA NORTH.** Sundays, 9:45, 11:30 a.m. Summer 10:30 a.m. only June thru mid August. 11420 Crabapple Rd., Roswell. 770-992-3949, www.uuman.org

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF ATHENS.** Sundays 11 a.m. 706-546-7914

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF COLUMBUS.** Sundays, 10:30 a.m. 1442 Double Churches Road, Columbus. 706-660-1442

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.** Sunday school 9:30 a.m.; Sundays 9 & 11 a.m. 2676 Clairmont Rd. NE Atlanta 30329-2741. 404-633-4505, www.central-ucc.org

**CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR.** An open and affirming congregation. Sunday school 10 a.m., worship 10:55 a.m. 1950 Old Alabama Road, Roswell. 770-998-6789, www.cofsavior.org, www.stillspeaking.com

**GOD, SELF AND NEIGHBOR MINISTRIES.** Sundays 1:30 a.m. An open and affirming ministry of the United Church of Christ. 743 Virginia Ave. 404-881-0880

**PILGRIMAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.** Sundays 10 a.m. 3755 Sandy Plains Rd., Marietta. 770-971-0007, www.pilgrimageucc.com

## UNITY

**UNITY NORTH ATLANTA CHURCH.** Wednesday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m. For all religions, beliefs and life-styles. 4255 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta. 678-819-9100, www.unitynorth.org

## UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

**UNITY FELLOWSHIP OF CHRIST CHURCH.** Sundays 3 p.m. 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. 404-752-5030

**To add a listing**, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.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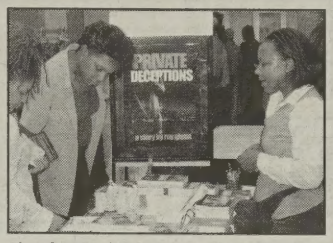
# local news

## Town hall meeting to lay out Black Pride details




Plans for a marketplace during the Gay Black Pride celebration in Atlanta next month will be discussed during a town hall meeting July 27. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

In the Life Atlanta, organizer of the city's annual Black Gay Pride celebration, hosts its second community town hall meeting on July 27 to reveal plans for the Labor Day weekend event. The meeting provides an opportunity for attendees to see what events ITLA has in store, including the "Stand Up and Represent" March and the UJIMA Black Gay Pride family picnic. "In the spirit of this year's theme — UJIMA, collective work and responsibility — the meeting ensures that our community is involved and participating in the growth and development of Black Gay Pride and the Atlanta black LGBT community," said Michael Slaughter, ITLA board co-chair. In addition to unveiling the details of the Pride schedule, the meeting also features special guest Dr. Shirlene Holmes, an award-winning playwright and associate professor of communications at Georgia State University, the Adodi Muse Gay Negro Ensemble, and master of ceremonies Scottie Robinson. Attendees can volunteer at the meeting to join in the festival planning.

**Van Gower**

**MORE INFO**
**Town Hall Meeting**
July 27, 3:30 p.m.
Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture & History
101 Auburn Ave. NE
404-525-8260
www.inthelifeatl.org

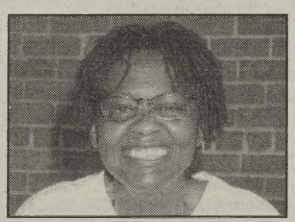
## Lesbian activist named to panel on late Atlanta mayors

**Joan Garner**, one of former Mayor Maynard Jackson's advisers on gay issues, was named to a panel considering how to honor Jackson and former Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. Both men died recently.

Joan Garner, a longtime lesbian activist and fund-raiser for progressive causes, will serve on the city's new Atlanta Advisory Commission to honor late Mayors Ivan Allen, Jr. and Maynard Jackson, Jr. Mayor Shirley Franklin announced the formation of the panel on July 9. "The membership reflects the rich diversity of our city," Franklin said. "I am confident that their proposals will be befitting of the lives of these two great leaders." Jackson, Atlanta mayor from 1974-1982 and 1990-1994, died June 23 at the age of 65. Allen, mayor from 1962-1970, died July 2 at the age of 92. Garner is one of four City Council appointees on the panel, which currently has 16 members and can have a maximum of 19. Now executive director of the Southern Partners Fund, Garner served as one of three senior advisers on gay issues appointed by Jackson during his third term as Atlanta mayor — a first for a Southern city. Jackson "was definitely for equality and fairness and justice, and willing to step out there, no matter what the climate felt like, to take a stand for what he thought was right," Garner said shortly after Jackson's death. She could not be reached for comment on the appointment by press time.

**Laura Douglas-Brown**

## ZAMI hosts road trip to WNBA game in Charlotte



ZAMI Executive Director **Mary Anne Adams** is organizing an Aug. 9 trip to a WNBA match.

ZAMI Inc. sponsors an Aug. 9 trip to Charlotte, N.C., for the WNBA basketball game between the Charlotte Sting and the Connecticut Sun. ZAMI is a Decatur-based organization that fosters sisterhood and empowerment for lesbians of African-American descent, but Executive Director Mary Anne Adams said the trip is open to all women. "I want to stress that although most of ZAMI's events are primarily for black lesbians, the trip to the game is open to all women, regardless of race or sexual orientation," Adams said. The group departs South Dekalb Mall in Decatur by bus on Aug. 9. Women purchase their own tickets, in addition to paying $75, which includes round-trip transportation and hotel accommodations with shared rooms. Adams said women interested in the trip should contact her as early as possible so that ZAMI organizers can gauge the number of people who plan to attend. The trip is co-sponsored with Soul Sister Productions and Madam Productions.

**Van Gower**

**MORE INFO**
**ZAMI Trip to WNBA Game**
Aug. 9-10, departure 7 a.m.
South DeKalb Mall
2801 Candler Road, Decatur
$75 plus cost of ticket
404-370-1392
www.zami.org

**spirituality** PENNY WHITE

Growing community of gay parents inspires **First MCC children's ministry** dedicated to teaching 'all-inclusive love.'

# Diving into summer

THE CHILDREN'S MINistry at Atlanta's First Metropolitan Community Church dives right into life's lessons. Literally.

Using the acronym SCUBA — Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure — the ministry takes children on outings such as a fishing trip and an upcoming visit to the Tennessee Aquarium.

And unlike what is termed in many churches as 'Vacation Bible School," First MCC's SCUBA program is a summer-long learning adventure as opposed to a one-week session in a classroom.

About 25 participants are enrolled in First MCC's SCUBA, a 'Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure' that offers a 'safe place' for children with gay parents. (Photo courtesy First MCC)

"We're not teaching fundamentalist Bible type preaching. We are teaching life lessons," says Ed Smith, office administrator for First MCC.

The children's ministry is a relatively new program for First MCC, which was founded in 1972 and cites a membership that is about 80 percent gay. The ministry answers a need created by the growing number of gay people who are becoming parents, according to First MCC Senior Pastor Paul Graetz.

"We've been doing youth ministries for about two years," Graetz says. "It has been growing and doing wonderful things for kids. Children grow in an environment of wonderful love and inclusion, regardless of whether they have two mothers, two fathers, or traditional one mother, one father.

"It really changes the face of what is family," he says. "They learn that family is all about love and care rather than about specific genders."

THERE ARE ABOUT 25 CHILDREN AGES 5-12 enrolled in the SCUBA program, which is overseen by Billy Carroll, First MCC's children's director.

Carroll, who holds a master's degree in Religious Education and an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education, said he has taken the SCUBA program and embellished upon it.

"The material is produced by a company called Group," explains Carroll. "It actually arrives in a big tin can so it's kind of like a 'canned program' if you will."

Although the program is easy to follow and comes complete with games, music and even special snacks, it leaves room for improvisation.

"Last year we had what was called a 'Bug Safari.' This year it's SCUBA and next year is Lava Lava Island," Carroll says.

The programs are intended for a one-week Vacation Bible School, but Carroll made it into a summer-long adventure, implementing monthly excursions along with classroom instruction. Lessons in the class setting are taken from the Bible and translated spiritually and practically for children to apply to their everyday lives.

"This past weekend we did a SCUBA school Bible study about obeying God," Carroll says. "The story was about Jonah and the whale, about how Jonah disobeyed God and the consequences that followed. Then we put it into a context the kids can understand, like how if they don't obey their parents or follow school rules, what the consequences would be."

But the most important life lesson taught through SCUBA is about acceptance.

"Jesus loved everyone," Smith says. "And we try to teach the kids about all-inclusive love. We want them to understand that love is for everyone, not just loving someone who fits into our mold."

Organizers hope the program will have a lasting impact on its participants.

"Whether the parents are gay or straight, it doesn't matter," Smith says. "If you teach kids young to accept everyone as they are instead of who we want them to be, we don't have the problems we currently encounter.

"More and more gay parents are searching for a safe place for their children to experience spiritual growth," he adds. "That is why the overall focus of everything we teach is God's unconditional love."

This summer's SCUBA excursions are water-related to reflect the theme and have included pool parties and a fishing trip. On July 20, participants travel to the waterslide park at Stone Mountain. In September, they plan to visit the Aquarium and Imax Theater in Chattanooga, Tenn.

**MORE INFO**

**First Metropolitan Community Church**
1379 Tullie Rd.
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editorial

# The new Smurfs

## In the world of 'Will & Grace' and post-Lawrence v. Texas, we are as cute and cuddly as Tinky Winky.

## But let's not confuse **our image with our reality**.

**By STEVE WEINSTEIN**

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED after the landmark Lawrence v. Texas decision by the Supreme Court, which sweepingly threw out all sodomy laws and suddenly made private homosex a legally sanctioned leisure-time activity. According to news producers and commentators, not one member of the Bush administration would publicly come out against the ruling.

Instead, the all-news channels and newspaper reporters were reduced to rounding up the usual suspects from the fringe right. You know, groups, like Family Research Council and Focus on the Family. Sometimes I think they only exist to offer sound bites. Other times I'm sure of it.

Yes, Senate GOP leader Bill Frist (Tenn.) went on record as saying he's opposed to gay marriage. But most observers agree that a "Defense of Marriage" constitutional amendment would be difficult to pass (not that we can let our guard down). So people like Frist consider this a safe issue, since they don't see the reality of such an amendment.

At last month's New York Pride parade, there was also a sea change. I can still remember in past years, horrified tourists running away, while mothers shielded their children's eyes from drag queens in thongs, leather men in chaps and dykes on bikes.

This year, tourists were scrambling to take pictures and shake those drag queens' hands, to snap a photo for the folks back home of the leatherman's behind and to cheer those bike-riding dykes. Rather than fleeing the mayhem, families were setting up lawn chairs and hoisting their kids on Dad's shoulders for a better view of the pretty boys on their pretty floats.

CALL IT THE "WILL & GRACE" factor: Forget Sharon Stone's "Basic Instinct" femme fatale, S&M slasher in "Cruising," and the gender-variant serial murderer in "The Silence of the Lambs." Today, we're Eric McCormack, who plays Will with as much flamboyance as John Wayne; or we're cute and cuddly sissies like Sean Hayes' Jack.

We've become the new Smurfs. Jerry Falwell was right. We really are Tinky Winky!

Other cultural trends have also contributed to this transformation. RuPaul made mile-high black drag queens safe for Middle America. Ellen DeGeneres has become the only major stand-up comedian whose repertoire of four-letter words consists of "jeez," "gosh" and "darn."

Matthew Shepard's boyish face came to symbolize young lives cut short through hatred and intolerance. Nathan Lane and Elton John are cute, cuddly and talented: Paul Lynde without the snide curled lip.

To be sure, plenty of people still hate us. But in many circles, it's become uncool to express it. In the most recent issue of Esquire, in an article entitled "10 Things You Don't Know about Women," Lauren Weisberger writes, "Nothing you were thinking about saying about the gay couple you saw in the supermarket is a good idea. Trust me."

In other words, don't even try to be cute or snide about us, pal, or you'll be sleeping on the sofa tonight.

This acceptance has gotten so trendy that it was cleverly satirized in the film "American Beauty." In that hymn to suburban dysfunction, the blandest, most boring people — the only happy couple in the film — were the two gorgeous, successful gay professionals.

DON'T GET ME WRONG: THERE'S still plenty of what commentators have taken to calling "the ick factor" out there. The ick factor translates as people believing — either because they're true conservatives (that is, government non-interference in private matters), libertarians, liberals or just people of good will — that the government has no place in our bedroom. But they also don't want to have to think about what we actually do there.

Hence the "ick": Gay men may have the right to have sex, but that doesn't mean that anybody wants to think about what that actually means, at least graphically. (I specify "gay men" because let's face it: Straight people either have a fascination with lesbian sex; are titillated or downright turned on by it; or, like Queen Victoria, simply consider it a physical impossibility.)

To counter the ick factor, many of our spokespersons have taken the "virtually normal" route. They talk of us as the family next door, the couple down the hall, your sons and daughters and nieces and uncles and teachers and firemen and ...

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I'm getting a little tired of being so damned nice. God bless Lambda Legal for its wonderful work arguing Lawrence all the way to the Supreme Court. But why did their lawyers have to keep saying that the decision legitimized sex between two men or two women?

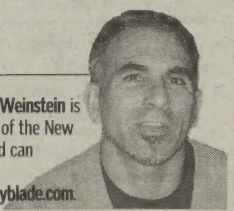
First of all, Lawrence was a decisive victory for heterosexuals. This little fact has been overlooked in all of the rejoicing or hand-wringing. But the court went much further than simply saying that Texas was wrong in singling out gay men for "sodomy"; the six justices ruled that laws against any form of sodomy between consenting adults was invalid.

Believe it or not, until June 26, if Dad wanted to do some sheet diving and pleasure Mom while Junior is safely reading the latest "Harry Potter" down the hall, he would have been committing a crime in Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah or Virginia. Ditto if Mom wanted to bite the banana.

"So what?" you say. "There's no way the police would find them." That's what John Geddes Lawrence and Tyron Garner thought when police mistakenly burst into their apartment and found them in bed together. Such laws demean everyone, including happily married monogamous couples. (New York State has just stricken from its legal books the word "sodomy," which has as much relevance to modern jurisprudence as "fornicator" or "witchcraft.")

But I also object to that "boy (or girl) next door" stuff. What Lawrence did was to say that private, consensual sex is not the government's business. That means that if someone wants to go online and invite over four of his nearest and dearest (whose last names he'll never know) for a messy night of sex, that's no one's business but his own.

I wish someone from Lambda Legal had told that to Bill O'Reilly.



**Steve Weinstein** is editor of the New York Blade and can be reached at sweinstein@nyblade.com.

# letters

## Pro-Pride and anti-abortion?

To the Editor:

After another year enjoying the Atlanta Pride parade, I was pleased with every aspect of it. Nice people, entertaining, not too raunchy and so on.

I thought I had nothing to complain about until the very end of the parade, when a young man handed me a handful of rubber gloves. I thought, "What a nice gesture. I think."

The label said something about girls wanting to have fun. It sported a rainbow flag and two Web site addresses. I checked out the Web sites when I got home and was bombarded with pictures of mangled fetuses and anti-abortion rhetoric.

Getting this from Pride? Surely not.

Pride stands for freedom of choice, thought and speech among many other things, but this? I would hope that the Atlanta Pride Committee would take steps to weed out the hard core and radical political views of those prone to violence and intolerance.

It is likely that Pride officials had no idea that this was going on. If that is the case, we all need to be cautious and aware that these folks will take up anyone's cause to smear their hateful and sometimes damaging campaigns on unsuspecting fun seekers.

**HELEN CABE**
**Atlanta**

## State shouldn't legislate sodomy or diversity

To the Editor:

If you want to know whether conservatives deserve to be considered defenders of liberty, consider Justice Antonin Scalia's opinion dissenting from the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Texas's ridiculous and unconstitutional anti-sodomy law.

Justice Scalia warned that "this [decision] effectively decrees the end of all morals legislation": including laws against adultery, "fornication," and masturbation. So it would, and good riddance.

Conduct that violates no one's rights is a matter for each individual's choice, not for the state's coercive power. What else can the individual's rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" mean?

Justice Scalia, with other conservatives, also assailed the affirmative-action decision as condoning illegitimate social engineering.

Their view was correct, but their motives were hypocritical. Once a man has attempted to seize the power of the state to impose his view of the good life, he can expect nothing except for others to return the favor.

**ROBERT GARMONG**
**Ayn Rand Institute**
**Irvine, Calif.**

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BUT, DR. FRIST—LEECHES?! I FEEL FINE!
The Republican Senate HEREBY CONFERS UPON Sen. Bill Frist A Doctorate in Majority Leadership
NONSENSE! WE WANT TO GET RID OF THOSE HOMOSEXUAL COOTIES, DON'T WE?
ANTIGAY FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

## Bigotry no better coming from gays

To the Editor:

Keith Fix's diatribe against transfolk in the June 16 edition of the Southern Voice ("Trans activists make gay life harder," letters) had me both mad as hell and sick to my stomach.

For Fix to refer to Gwen Smith as "Mr." is akin to Rev. Freddy Phelps and his ilk calling gay men "fags" and is just as hate-filled and bigoted!

Not all of us transfolk are as pretty as the girls Fix sees on the "Jerry Springer Show" or the drag bars he visits on a regular basis, else he wouldn't slur Gwen's looks. I'm not that good of a looker either, but at least I don't degrade another part of the community.

Despite the denials, we transfolk are a part of the spectrum! Mr. Fix obviously forgot that transfolk were part and parcel of the Stonewall riot, and if it wasn't for the queens, love, there wouldn't be a movement.

I respectfully suggest that Fix get his head out of its ignorant position and get used to the fact that there are transsexuals who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual. We've been on this planet for as long as gays and lesbians have been.

**MARLENE BOMER**
**N. Baltimore, Ohio**

'DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR,' PAGE 66

# THE Q

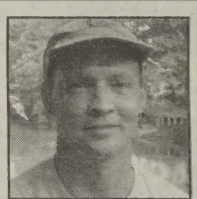
Questions about what's going on in **your** world

Mike Kenn, the Fulton County Commission chair who opposed domestic partner benefits, announced recently that he would resign Aug. 1 to take a private sector lobbying job. Political pundits speculate that he may be considering a future run for statewide office.

### Who is Mike Kenn?

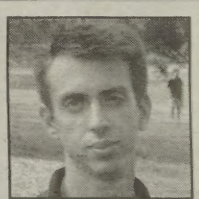
'I don't know. I read the paper everyday, but unless it is a feature in the paper, I don't follow it specifically. I don't even know who he is. Sorry. I know who Cathy Woolard is. She's always in the paper for doing something.'

**Kim Wilson**, 32, Midtown



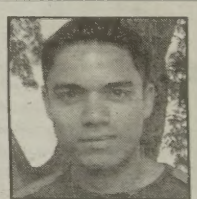
'I don't know who Mike Kenn is. I just moved back to Atlanta so I haven't followed local politics that closely. Maybe I'm not the best person to ask.'

**David Zaparanick**, 35, West End



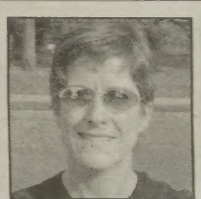
'I have no idea. I'll take a look and see what's going on with domestic partner benefits and I look more at the national level to see what's going on with marriage licenses. I still don't know who he is, but now that you've told me a little bit more about his political beliefs, I'll probably keep an eye on him and if I were voting I would not vote for him.'

**Aaron Budsock**, 30, Midtown



'Honestly, I have no idea. Probably he's a politician or something? I think that I heard that name before, but I can't recall when or where. Yeah I think he's a politician but I don't know exactly. Politics — I'm not into it. When I go to newspapers, I like to read about sports or comics or something. Politics are difficult to understand.'

**Carlos Franco**, 26, Lawrenceville



'I don't know. Actually I just moved to Atlanta about eight months ago, and I'm clueless about politics. But I would say based on that action with DP benefits I could guess on the type of politics that he would follow and endorse.'

**Suzanne Dixon**, 34, Midtown

'He is the Fulton County commissioner who resigned. ... Some of his views I'm for, some of them I'm against. I think he's pretty much up against a wall with a lot of the things he wants to do for the city, and he's pretty much voted against a lot of the time. When it comes to traffic and some tax issues, I think he does a good job. In some other issues, domestic partnership, he's totally against that and other issues when it comes to the gay population. So he's right down the middle in my book.'

**Joann Schwartz**, 40, Kirkwood

Interviews and photos by Christopher Seely

**viewpoint** LOUIS WEISBERG

If gay activists and our allies hadn't defeated **Robert Bork's** Supreme Court nomination, we **wouldn't have won** the sodomy case.

# But for Bork

IF NOT FOR THE SUCCESS 16 YEARS ago of Senate Democrats in blocking Robert Bork's nomination to the Supreme Court, the recent decision overturning sodomy laws might have come out a different way. With this in mind, gay activists must recommit to fighting judicial nominations that will stack the odds against us.

In the aftermath of Lawrence vs. Texas, conservative Republicans are certain to step up their pressure on President Bush to appoint more right-wing jurists to the federal bench. The party's zealots are already seething over the administration's decision not to file a friend-of-the-court brief defending sodomy laws. These are the president's core supporters, and with an election coming up next year, they will have to be appeased.

Of course, the president doesn't really need any goading. He has already followed the efforts of his father and former President Reagan to load the courts with conservative ideologues.

Bush nominated Carolyn Kuhl to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. According to the National Organization for Women, Kuhl was instrumental in persuading the Reagan administration to restore the tax-exempt status of Bob Jones University, which had been revoked because of the university's racially discriminatory policies.

Other pending Bush nominees include

- Terrence Boyle, an aide to former Sen. Jesse Helms, who issued an influential ruling that the Americans with Disabilities Act does not apply to the states;
- Charles Pickering, Sr., who has called for a constitutional amendment banning abortion and whose record includes a number of rulings considered racially tinged;
- James Leon Holmes, who has equated pro-choice activists with Nazis;
- Priscilla Owen, whose successful campaign for the Texas Supreme Court was supported by Enron and who subsequently reduced that company's taxes by reversing a lower-court decision.

The list goes on.

A VACANCY ON THE SUPREME COURT is expected at any time, and gay activists must be prepared to beat back nominees like these by joining with our allies in a comprehensive opposition campaign modeled after the one that defeated Bork.

Bork, who was tapped by Reagan to fill the seat being vacated by retiring Justice Lewis Powell, was the darling of ultra-conservatives intent on curbing what they viewed as a growing tendency of the court to legislate on social issues, such as abortion and civil rights.

A popular figure among conservatives, Bork's views were well-known not only from his judicial opinions, but from his articles, speeches and television appearances. Senate Democrats charged him with racism and sexism, but they were most alarmed about his narrow interpretation of the Constitution — an interpretation that would have led him to support the Texas sodomy law.

Supreme Court observers consider the Bork confirmation hearings to be a turning point in the judicial nominating process. Prior to Bork, senators had defined their role in the process narrowly: They considered nominees, qualifications and integrity, but not their judicial views or philosophy.

That all changed with Bork, whose ideology became the focus of an intense campaign to derail his confirmation. Groups ranging from the Sierra Club to Planned Parenthood joined forces in an anti-Bork effort that included TV commercials and use of sophisticated computer databases, then in their relative infancy.

The ACLU broke its longstanding tradition of neutrality to oppose Bork's nomination. The Human Rights Campaign Fund joined the fray and provided Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) with a tape of a speech in which Bork declared that constitutional precedent was "not all that important." That statement helped to seal Bork's defeat, according to HRC.

Reagan next nominated neo-con Douglas Ginsburg to fill Powell's seat. But Ginsburg withdrew himself from consideration after stories surfaced about alleged drug use. So Reagan turned to Anthony Kennedy.

Of course, it was Kennedy who penned the sweeping majority opinion in the landmark Lawrence case. It's easy to see how different the outcome might have been if Bork had been seated.

The right is better organized to promote its judicial nominees than it was in Bork's day, according to University of Southern Illinois Law School professors Norman Vieira and Leonard Gross. In their book "Supreme Court Appointments: Judge Bork and the Politicization of Senate Confirmations," they cite the first President Bush's success with Clarence Thomas' nomination as evidence that the right has gained some savvy in how to fight and win.

But, as the Lawrence case proved, we must be up to the challenge if we hope to continue making social gains through the nation's judicial system and to avoid the inevitable setbacks that will occur if Bush is given free rein in the judicial selection process.

**Louis Weisberg** is a Chicago-based writer and can be reached at **loulasting@rcn.com.**

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**viewpoint** WAYNE BESEN

Howard Dean is not a miracle, but a mirage. Gay Democrats should look before they leap onto his **deeply flawed bandwagon**.

# The Dean delusion

FORMER VERMONT GOV. HOWARD Dean's surprising online fund-raising prowess has catapulted him to the front of the Democratic pack to take on George W. Bush. Much of the Dean mania comes from his passionate gay supporters.

Unfortunately, jumping on Dean's deeply flawed bandwagon may be a catastrophic mistake that will cost the gay rights cause. Howard Dean is not a miracle, but a mirage — albeit not for the reason most often cited.

The most frequent rationale for calling Dean toast against Bush is Dean's perceived ultra-liberalism. He is sometimes unfairly compared to the failed presidential nominee George McGovern who lost 49 states.

The reality, however, is that Dean's record as Vermont's governor is not so liberal. He is a buddy of the National Rifle Association, he cut taxes, and even reformed welfare. And Dean's anti-war stance seems less of a liability, as body bags filled with American soldiers become regular fare on the evening news.

No, the problem with Dean is not policy, but personality. Dean seems unable to control his emotions or his mouth on the campaign trail. His defenders say this so-called outspokenness is refreshing. But the truth is, it is more alarming than charming.

At times, Dean seems to suffer from logorrhea, which is defined as the inability to shut up. He has had to offer apologies at least five times in recent months for either reckless statements or for insulting fellow Democratic presidential nominees.

DEAN HAS RECEIVED BACKING FROM gay Democrats because he has been linked to the passage of a civil unions bill in Vermont, which gives same-sex couples many of the same rights and benefits offered married couples. But in reality, civil unions were not Dean's idea.

The Vermont Supreme Court mandated that same-sex couples be given equal treatment. Dean simply did the bare minimum to fulfill this requirement, with the maximum being full-fledged marriage, which Dean opposes.

Dean's public interest in civil unions probably comes as much from necessity as from true conviction. The civil unions bill was a rare opportunity for a Vermont governor to make national news. It also opened the vault early to a national network of wealthy lesbian and gay donors who could help ignite his longshot campaign.

Don't get me wrong. Dean is a strong supporter of gay equality; he has admirably campaigned in gay bars and has spoken more than any other candidate about gay rights in front of straight audiences.

But the other Democratic candidates are also good on our issues and deserve a serious look. Dean doesn't particularly stand out, and when you factor in his character deficiencies, he comes up short.

MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE, GAY Democrats want to defeat George W. Bush. We are outraged that Bush stole the election in Florida. We are crushed that the GOP increased their advantage in the House and gained control of the Senate.

An unfortunate turn of such epic political fortunes has brought an air of political desperation for gay Democrats. Like a punch-drunk fighter on the verge being knocked out, we are understandably groping for a savior.

Sadly, I'm afraid this political disorientation is affecting the judgment and ability of some of us to accurately appraise Howard Dean. We are seeing a hero where we should see a hapless politician.

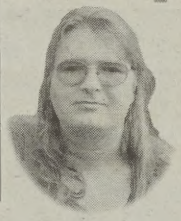
Dean is a politician with poor people skills who can sometimes come across as elitist, arrogant and temperamental. His "know-it-all" attitude is increasingly alienating the press and his primary opponents. He is making enemies where he should be making friends, and I don't see how he can appeal to middle America.

The question Dean must answer is whether his early missteps come from inexperience or an inherent character flaw. I sincerely hope he can learn from the past and start behaving in a presidential manner. His good qualities are many, and he does appear tougher and more persistent than many Democrats.

But gay Democrats must honestly look at Dean for who he is today and not project onto him an image they desperately want him to be. Any honest appraisal will show that Dean so far is a gaffe-prone politician who has shown a penchant for comments that may prove his demise.

**Wayne Besen** is a former spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign and author of "Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the 'Ex-Gay' Myth" (Haworth, Summer 2003). He can be reached at **wbesen@aol.com**.

**viewpoint** GWEN SMITH



**President Bush accepted** a fellow Yale alum who is now a woman, even as his supporters in Congress demonize us.

# Let's get personal

EARLY LAST MONTH, PRESIDENT Bush hosted his Yale class reunion at the White House. According to media reports, a woman approached Bush and said, "You might remember me as Peter when we left Yale." Bush did not pause, but took her hand, reportedly saying, "Now you've come back as yourself."

In the same week, it was announced that yet again, "gender identity" would not be included in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which bans anti-gay discrimination in the workplace.

The supposed reason was due to worries about losing sponsorships. Seems as if some are still not comfortable affording rights to transgendered people because they are seen as simply too "out there."

To me, this is a fine example of what it is to be a transgendered person in America. Let me explain.

Over the last several decades, the issue of transgenderism — or, more specifically, transsexuality — has been reduced to a handful of names.

In the 1940s it was Barbara Richards, followed by Christine Jorgensen in the 1960s, Jan Morris and Reneé Richards in the 1970s, and Carolyn "Tula" Cossey in the 1980s. Each pushed our issues into the mainstream, by simply being something more than just a word in a scientific journal.

THIS HAS CHANGED IN THE LAST decade. With the transgender movement gaining visibility — and the religious right clamoring to protect the country from a perceived threat — it has become impossible for "transgender" to be seen through only one or two people.

In particular, religious conservatives would prefer you did not see too much of the individuals involved. A recent debate on MSNBC's "Hardball" used a canned loop of old Pride parade footage while discussing a proposed bill to provide employment and housing rights to transgendered people in California. Of course, the same tactics were used for decades in gay rights battles.

The religious right and other such opponents know that when the public sees a transgendered person as an individual, they tend to treat said person a lot better than when they see him or her as a faceless "thing."

There is no issue where this is more noticeable than in anti-transgender violence. In many cases where a transgendered person has been murdered, their killers — or those who have shown casual disregard for said victim — have routinely reduced the deceased to an "it."

Gwen Araujo, the 17-year-old transgender girl killed in Newark, Calif., last October, was killed shortly after a third party called out "It's a fucking man."

In Falls City, Neb., after Brandon Teena, a 21-year-old transgendered man, was brutally murdered, the local sheriff, who could have prevented this death, said, "You can call it 'it' as far as I'm concerned."

It is that dehumanization that allows for callous behavior, even murder.

WE ALL KNOW, DEEP DOWN, WHAT discrimination feels like. You are reading this column in a publication that is not strictly transgendered, but you are likely no stranger to some of the same struggles I may have as a transgendered person.

I can tell plenty of stories of going to job interviews and facing rejection that has little or nothing to do with my skills. I can also tell you what it means to be verbally — even physically — assaulted for nothing more than what I happen to look like, or even just the way I happen to walk or talk.

Chances are good that you've faced troubles in a job interview, or have been assaulted over similar dumb reasons. You can relate to my experience, and see how the way I was treated was probably just as unjust as anything you've faced.

When Dubya took the hand of his old Yale alumnus, he was not taking the hand of some unseen menace called "transgender." He was seeing an old classmate, and reacted as such. Like many other Americans, he reacted with sympathy to this individual, and shared compassion with their experience.

At the same time, his compatriots in Congress were still seeing transgendered people as a whole as too odd to deserve equal rights, while his supporters amongst the Traditional Values Coalition were ranting about the "transgendered agenda."

It's the two faces of the struggle for rights in America. It's perfectly fine to treat a transgendered person you know with respect, but strip the identity away from same person, and all bets are off.

It's time to get personal!

**Gwen Smith** is a San Francisco-based transgender activist and can be reached at **gwen@gwensmith.com**.

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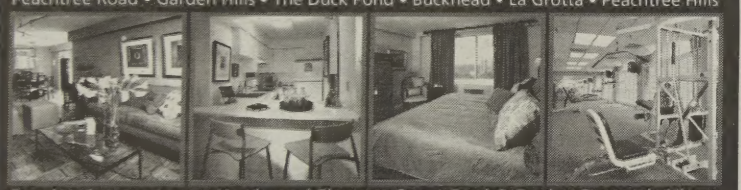

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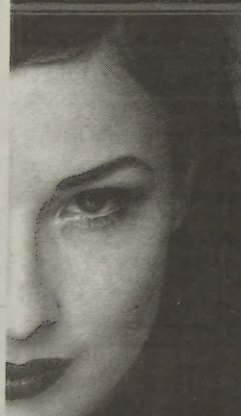

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# on the record

"When candidates choose to ignore the NAACP, they have no legitimacy when they go into our communities later asking for our votes."

*NAACP President **Kweisi Mfume**, on the three Democratic presidential candidates — Sen. Joe Lieberman (Conn.) and U.S. Reps. Dick Gephardt (Mo.) and Dennis Kucinich (Ohio) — who failed to appear at a July 14 forum sponsored by the civil rights group (Washington Post, July 15)*

"Today we will be joined by seven of the nine Democratic candidates for president of the United States. ... Regrets have been sent by the other two, Sen. John Edwards and Sen. Bob Graham."

***Elizabeth Birch**, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, on the two candidates who failed to appear at a July 15 forum sponsored by the gay civil rights group*

"I think on [the Texas sodomy] decision, the administration did not file a brief in this case, unlike in the Michigan [affirmative action] case. And this is now a state matter."

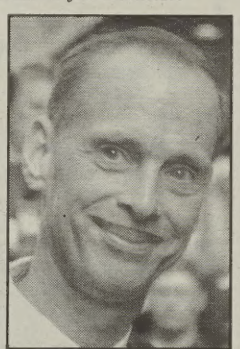
*White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer, declining to offer President Bush's view on the Supreme Court's ruling in Lawrence v. Texas, a suit challenging the sodomy law that was in the Texas courts when President Bush was governor (White House Press Briefing, June 26)*

"We should be patrolling the borders, not Liberace."

*Conservative Fox News talk show host Bill O'Reilly, on the Supreme Court's sodomy ruling ("O'Reilly Factor," June 26)*

"You people in all of those states — carry on. What you've been doing is now legal. ... I'm sure this ruling is going to absolutely panic some of you out there."

*Conservative WSB radio talk show host Neal Boortz, on the Supreme Court's sodomy ruling (June 26)*



"God have mercy on America."

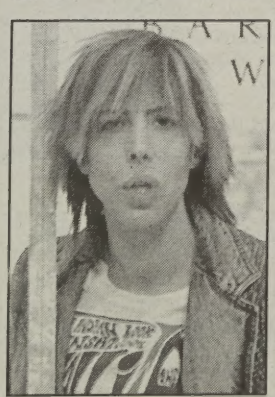
*John Giles, president of the Christian Coalition of Alabama, on the Supreme Court's sodomy ruling (Mobile Register, June 27)*

"Petitioners paint themselves as uncontrollable sexual beings who must be given the freedom, at all social and physical costs, to be able to place their male reproductive organs in the anus of another human being."

*Traditional Values Coalition, a conservative lobby group, in an amicus brief filed with the Supreme Court in Lawrence v. Texas*

"The real reason I'm praying that 'Hairspray' succeeds is that if it's a hit, there will be high school productions, and finally the fat girl and the drag queen will get the starring parts."

*"Hairspray" writer and famous gay filmmaker **John Waters** (New York Post, June 27)*



"Probably not. Reasonable people can disagree."

*Mark Mead, spokesperson for the Log Cabin Republicans, on whether the group will oppose the federal appeals court nomination of Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor, who argued in a brief before the Supreme Court that striking down the Texas sodomy law "must logically extend to activities like prostitution, adultery, necrophilia, bestiality, possession of child pornography and even incest and pedophilia" (Mobile Register, June 27)*

"Hopefully, I'll be getting J.Lo to spank me on air. There will be no boundaries."

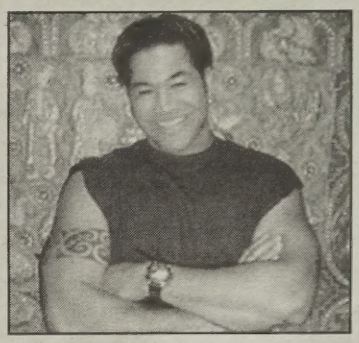
*Fey fashion adviser **Steven Cojocaru**, a regular on NBC's "Today" show, on a new deal he has signed to appear as a correspondent on "Entertainment Tonight" (New York Post, June 25)*

## action! alert

# Chili's, Avis target gays

### Recent campaigns feature, focus on gays

By RYAN LEE



In a new ad for Chili's Grill & Bar, gay retired NFL lineman **Esera Tuaolo** strums a ukulele and sings. The company investigated his 2002 coming out on HBO before approving the commercial spot. (Photo by Jeff Loftis, courtesy www.eseratualo.com)

WHILE WATCHING TELEVISION Tuesday, Esera Tuaolo finally saw the commercial that's been creating so much buzz since it began airing three weeks ago.

The simple ad features "Esera: retired athlete" strumming his ukulele and singing about Chili's Grill & Bar's Hawaiian steak.

But it's not just any retired athlete pushing a product for a major family-oriented restaurant. Tuaolo is the former NFL defensive lineman who came out as gay last year, and his presence in the ad campaign is revolutionary, said Michael Wilke, executive director of Commercial Closet, a gay advertising watchdog.

"It's very uncommon — there are very few openly gay celebrities that have corporate relationships like that," Wilke said. "I think what happened was that they discovered belatedly who he was."

That's exactly what happened, according to marketers for the chain.

"It was brought to our attention after the casting director filmed the [audition] tape," said Eric Webber, vice president of public relations for Chili's advertising firm, GSD&M. "We were just looking for real people who did not make their primary living as entertainers — the sort of people who eat everyday at Chili's."

Tuaolo is featured in one of a dozen "Tastemonials" spots where people sing and dance about baby-back ribs and other Chili's menu items.

A WEEK BEFORE HE WAS SCHEDuled to shoot the spot, Tuaolo received a call from GSD&M requesting a copy of the HBO "Real Sports" episode where Tuaolo announced his sexual orientation.

"What was racing through our heads — my and my husband's — was, are they about to pull the plug?" Tuaolo said. "But they didn't, and that says a lot about their company. It lets me know they don't discriminate."

Chili's requested the tape to make sure Tuaolo's status or past wasn't going to overshadow the purpose of the ad campaign, Webber said. After viewing the tape, Chili's officials were convinced signing Tuaolo wasn't a liability, and the company has received no negative feedback on the commercial, he said.

No reference to Tuaolo's sexual orientation was made in the ad, something both Tuaolo and Wilke from Commercial Closet appreciated.

"Personally, I don't see it as relevant to his presence in the commercial," Wilke said. "They accepted him for who he is and didn't make an issue out of it."

"It was great to just be myself," Tuaolo said. "I think a lot of people think I got this job because I was the gay NFL player, but it was not like that at all."

AS PART OF ITS LATEST EFFORT TO court what it calls "the growing buying power of the gay community," Avis car rental agency announced a program to donate $1 to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation each time a customer rents a vehicle using a special code.

The code, AWD#K392100, will be active until Dec. 25 and can be used at all of Avis' North American franchises, said Ted Deutsch, vice president for Cendant Car Rental Group, which owns Avis and Budget.

"We look for affinity groups that we think have an affinity to rent from us, and we like to partner with charities that resonates with the groups we are targeting," Deutsch said.

The partnership is the latest move by Avis to attract gay renters. In 1993, the company began offering domestic partner benefits to its employees. The company also hosts six gay film festivals in the United States this year.

"They have been pretty good on GLBT issues," said Shalee Snorton, a GLAAD spokesperson. "Their history merited us embracing the opportunity when they approached us."

The company encounters some resistance to its gay outreach, Deutsch said.

"We certainly are hearing from conservative individuals who don't approve of the policy and are expressing their displeasure," Deutsch said. "But actually, we've had a lot of corporate accounts — which are our bread and butter — who have been very supportive."

### ACTION! INFO

**Chili's Grill & Bar**
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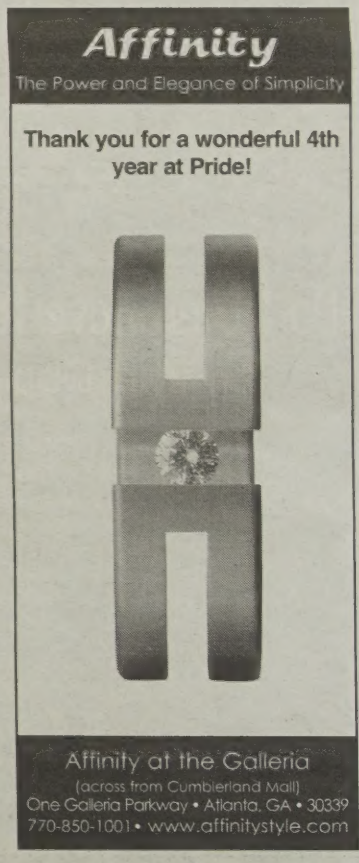
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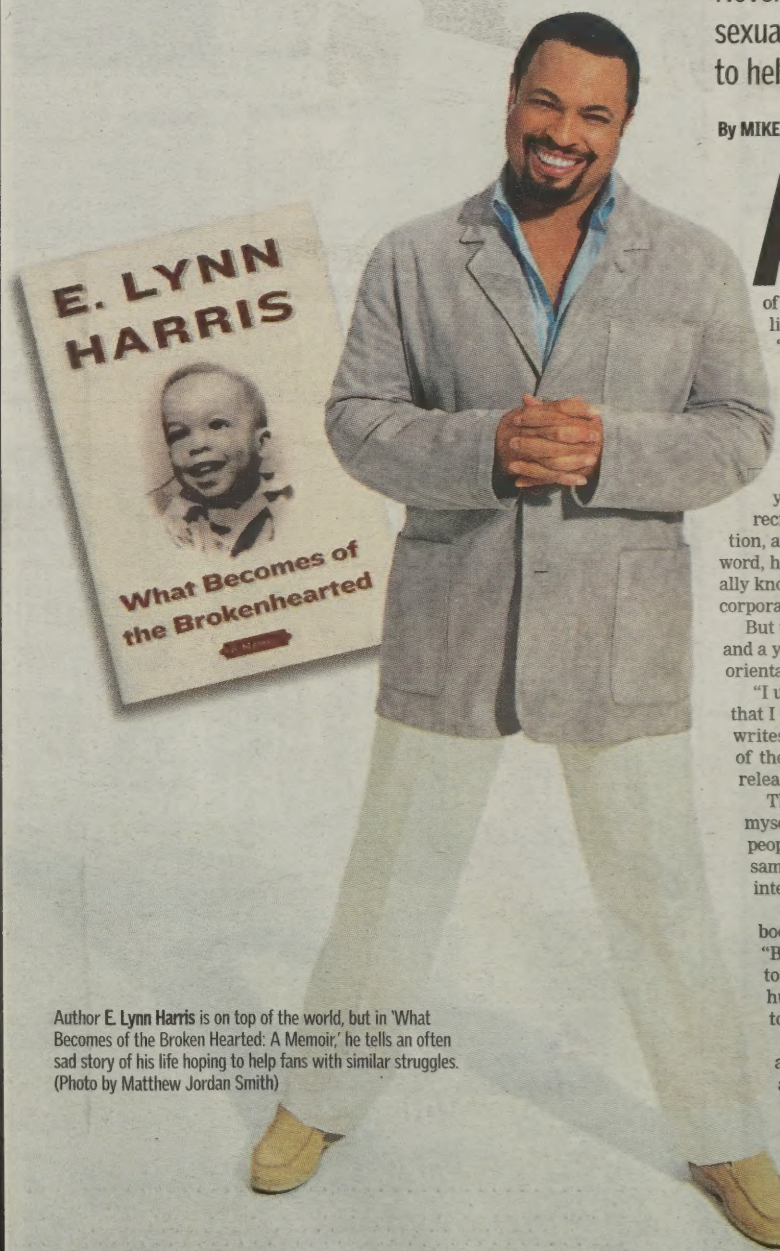
**MY SISTERS' ROOM:** Atlanta's foremost women's club offers nightlife choices for every inclination. **Page 51**

**LITERARY LOVERS:** Marijane Meaker recalls star-crossed affair with fellow author **Patricia Highsmith. Page 43**

# Writer heal thyself




Author **E. Lynn Harris** is on top of the world, but in 'What Becomes of the Broken Hearted: A Memoir,' he tells an often sad story of his life hoping to help fans with similar struggles. (Photo by Matthew Jordan Smith)

## Novelist puts struggles with sexual orientation on paper to help himself, others

By **MIKE FLEMING**

AT FIRST GLANCE, IT appears that E. Lynn Harris leads a charmed life.

The popular novelist who brought the double life of many black gay men into the spotlight in eight novels, beginning with "Invisible Life" in 1991 has enjoyed experiences that would make many people envious.

Harris attended journalism school on a full scholarship to the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and was the first black yearbook editor at the school. IBM recruited him for a high-paying position, and even before he ever wrote a word, his acquaintances included nationally known pop stars, beauty queens and corporate bigwigs.

But throughout a troubled childhood and a young adulthood battling his sexual orientation, Harris was far from happy.

"I used to pray to God every night that I would wake up straight," Harris writes in his memoir, "What Becomes of the Brokenhearted," which was released July 8.

The book serves as "a means to heal myself as well as an opportunity to help people who might be going through the same things," Harris says in a recent interview with Southern Voice.

"It was one of the most difficult books I've ever written," he says. "But a memoir calls for the truth, so to do the book justice — whether it hurt me or those around me — I had to tell the whole truth as I see it."

Harris is scheduled to read from and sign copies of "Brokenhearted" at three events this week in Atlanta, including an African-American church and gay-owned Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeeshop.

Loyal fans of Harris follow the conflicted character Raymond Tyler and his friends living "straight" lives while enjoying secret gay affairs. The memoir makes clear that, to some extent, art imitates Harris' real-life struggle.

"Brokenhearted" takes readers through a childhood in which Harris' stepfather beat him, teen years of low self esteem and gay sex, as well as college years when he fell in love with male friends, some of whom were heterosexual and others who were also conflicted.

"The book is pretty straight-forward," Harris says. "I had to relive some of those moments that weren't always pleasant — of sexuality and class — but I had to take a chance that my story might help people."

In detailed accounts of his adult experiences in Dallas, New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta, Harris talks openly about the gay black underground that fed his depression and alcoholism as well as contributed to the deaths of several close friends from AIDS. Two lovers cheated on him egregiously, causing extended mental anguish.

His inner torment — climaxing in a failed suicide attempt in 1990 — led him to finally find the enchanted life outsiders saw on the surface before his writing success.

"The charmed life is now and began when I started to tell the truth," he says. "Even though things were going on in my life that some people might see as positive, I was very tormented dealing with who I was."

According to multiple references in the book, that struggle was as "a black gay man." That's notable because, for the last several years, Harris dodged questions about his sexual orientation and declined interviews with the gay press.

"Brokenhearted" marks the first time in years that the author freely uses the word "gay" to describe himself. He opened himself to queries about his sexual orientation in recent interviews with this newspaper, the New York Times, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Advocate.

BUT IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. EVEN after the revelations in his memoir, Harris still has trouble with the word "gay."

"I don't feel comfortable describing myself as anything but 'Lynn,'" he says. "Not to run away from anything, but I don't want to put myself in a box. If it helps young people or someone else struggling with sexuality to hear that, I guess it's OK. But I would never limit myself."

In a July 13 article in the AJC, Harris

Please see **E. LYNN HARRIS** on **Page 55**

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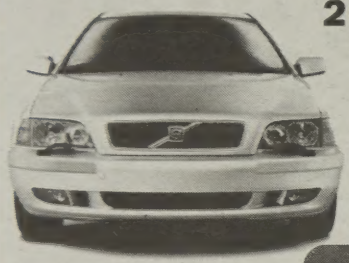

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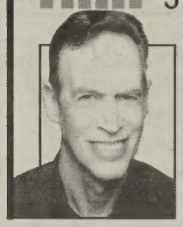


European comedy about three sisters with **a gay brother** offers some hits and misses, but ultimately entertains.

# Hoping for a Dutch treat

AT FIRST, "ZUS & ZO" ("THIS & THAT") seems to be a Dutch treat about three selfish sisters fighting their brother over the family's chief asset, the Hotel Paraiso in Portugal.

Nino (Jacob Derwig) will get the hotel if he marries, which he's planning to do in three weeks — to Bo (Halina Reijn). The trouble is, as sister Wanda (Anneke Blok) puts it: "Nino's gay as Frisco."

That turns out to be the least of these people's worries. The three sisters have two husbands between them. Wanda is sleeping with Sonja's, and Sonja has a crush on Michelle's.

Nino still carries a torch for the popular television chef who recently dumped him.

Writer-director Paula van der Oest doesn't leaven the general bitchiness with enough humor (or enough bitchiness for that matter — more gay input was needed).

The contrived feelgood ending is designed for effect with total disregard for most of what's gone before.

Gay viewers will cheer a scene in which Bo tells off the sisters, but they may be less enthusiastic about some other aspects of the plot.

To tell the truth, most of the script problems didn't bother me. The film is not as funny as I would have liked, but it kept me interested.

That the script is a disaster only becomes evident in retrospect, so it might be worth a look.

"Zus & Zo" scored one of this year's Oscar nominations for Best Foreign Language Film over far more worthy contenders. In addition to its regular run, Madstone Theaters Parkside offers a special screening this weekend to benefit the upcoming Out on Film gay film festival.

"SWIMMING POOL" IS THE FIRST FILM in English by prolific gay French filmmaker Francois Ozon. A story about the creation of a mystery, it becomes a mystery in its own right, in more ways than one.

I'll try to avoid spoilers, but the less you know in advance the better. If you're planning to see "Swimming Pool," finish this review later.

Charlotte Rampling, magnificent in Ozon's "Under the Sand," is almost as good here as Sarah Morton, an English mystery novelist with writer's block. She spends some time at her publisher's house in France, where she can write undisturbed.

The uptight diva relaxes in and starts writing until her idyll is interrupted by the arrival of Julie (Ludivine Sagnier),

**Jacob Derwig** plays a gay man who has to get married to **Halina Reijn** to receive his inheritance in the Dutch comedy 'Zus & Zo,' now playing at Madstone Theaters Parkside.

the publisher's daughter, who swims topless, makes a mess and brings home a string of unattractive men.

Sarah has no life besides her work and resents anyone who does. A war of nerves ensues. As an upside to the intrusion, Julie inspires Sarah to write another book, different from her usual potboilers.

"Swimming Pool" is no Hollywood movie. You have to wait a very long time for very little to happen.

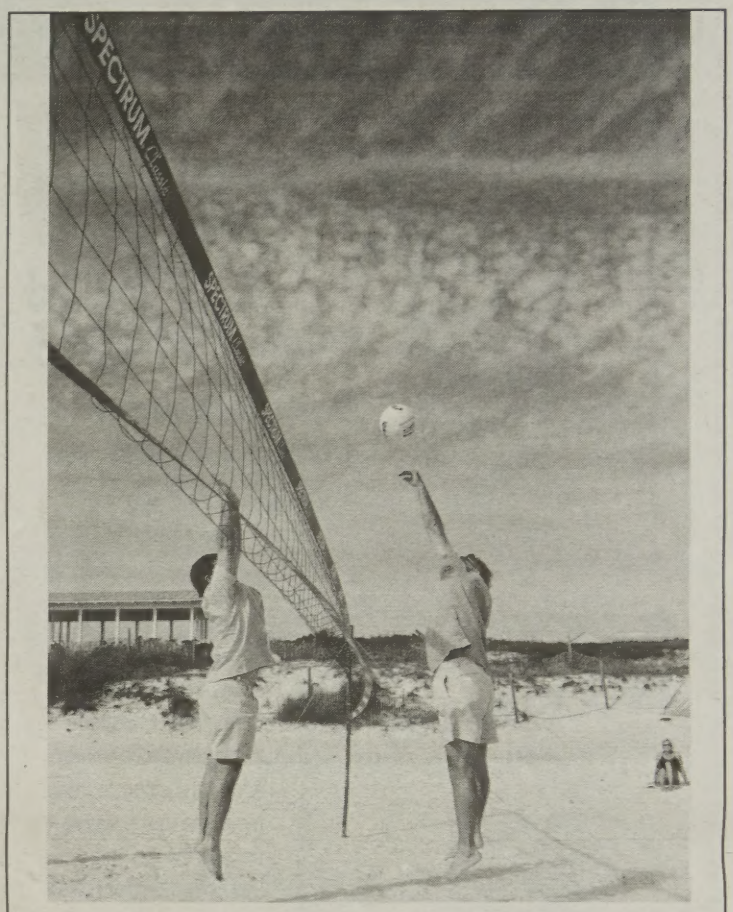
Ozon impresses as a latter-day Hitchcock, especially in the humor he finds in what might have been a grim story. He makes excellent use of sound and even better use of silence.

This latest addition to Ozon's amazing body of work doesn't become a mystery until near the end, but it remains a mystery long after the lights come up.

## MORE INFO

**'Zus & Zo'**
✪✪ 1/2
Queer Quotient: The queer character's sisters aren't homophobic, just greedy. And he turns out to have a good reason for wanting to marry a woman.
Opens July 18
Out on Film Benefit screening July 20, 7 p.m.
Madstone Theaters Parkside
5920 Roswell Road, NE
404-252-2000

**'Swimming Pool'**
✪✪✪
Queer Quotient: Ozon may be the best 'women's director' since fellow gay man George Cukor. There's no queer content, but lesbians will find plenty of eye candy.
Now playing in wide release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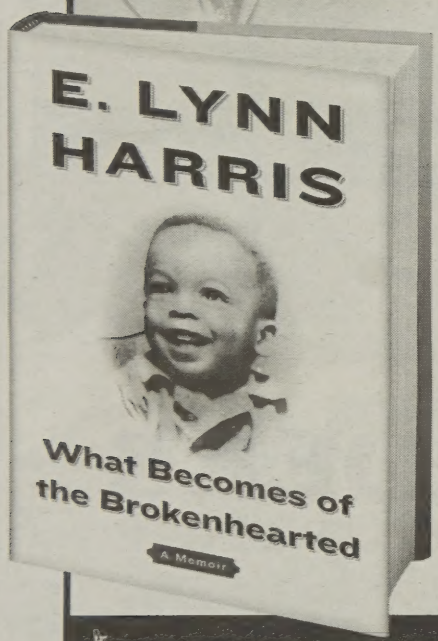


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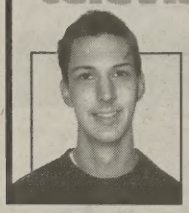

**Rupert Everett, Kathy Bates** star in offbeat feel-good movie 'Unconditional Love,' which makes its cable debut.

# All you need is 'Love'

IMAGINE KATHY BATES, RUPERT Everett, Sally Jessie Raphael, Barry Manilow and a dwarf singing "I Can't Smile Without You" in unison.

No, it's not a bad dream. It's a scene from the movie "Unconditional Love," set to debut Aug. 2 on Starz!, the subscription cable channel.

Director P.J. Hogan also co-wrote the movie. He directed Everett in "My Best Friend's Wedding."

The movie is the story of Bate's Grace, a sad-sack housewife whose husband leaves her the day before her idol, the Liberace-esque singer Victor Fox, is murdered in her home town of Chicago.

Since her husband left her because she was too boring, Grace takes a chance and travels to England to attend Fox's funeral. There, she eventually befriends Dirk (Everett), Fox's "valet" and live-in lover. Dirk convinces Grace to return with him to Chicago so they can find Fox's killer, and they are helped in the quest by Grace's dwarf daughter-in-law Maudie (Meredith Eaton).

The result is wickedly funny film that treads the line between goofball antics and black comedy with a deftness that is rarely seen anymore in Hollywood.

THE PRESENCE OF BATES DOESN'T hurt. She puts in a great performance, giving Grace just the right amount of naivete and daring to make her believable and sympathetic.

Eaton is a real stand out as a gruff dwarf who is prone to panic attacks and fits of shrieking. And Everett ... he's gay, he's hot, he's English and he's funny. What else do gay audiences need to know?

In small roles, Dan Akroyd (as Grace's husband Max), Lynn Redgrave (as Victor Fox's prissy sister), and Julie Andrews (who plays herself and gets to ward off a mob of paparazzi from a pulpit) make great comedic turns.

"Unconditional Love" is the guiltiest of guilty pleasures. The plot and theme are the standard format for feel-good movies that audiences have enjoyed for years, no matter how saccharine and unbelievable they are.

But this one is just quirky and dark enough that you won't feel stupid and sentimental for loving it.

ON THE OTHER HAND, "RENO 911!," Comedy Central's new show that spoofs reality shows like "Cops," tries to get laughs out of deriding a genre, but doesn't quite succeed.

The formula for this mostly-improvised show is to put stereotypical characters together, send them out on "missions" like we've seen on "Cops" and let funny stuff happen.

In 'Unconditional Love,' a very unconventional group including **Rupert Everett** (left), **Kathy Bates** and **Meredith Eaton** search for the killer of a Liberace-esque singer. (Photo courtesy New Line Films)

But it just doesn't happen.

Leading this band of merry men is Lt. Jim Dangle (Thomas Lennon), a very gay officer who wears short shorts and rolls up the sleeves on his uniform.

"I had to fight to wear a non-standard uniform," he says in the debut episode. "Because when I'm out in the field, I have to move like a cheetah."

Lt. Dangle gets involved with attractive "perps," and instead of arresting them, gets himself into trouble by trying to charm them. It's a funny gag in the first episode, but in the second one, the joke is already tired.

Add to the stereotypes in the squad a sassy black woman, a white-trash beauty queen, an overtly handsome guy and a crazy canine officer, and that's the force, though it's not yet a force to be reckoned with.

"Reno" is created by the same team behind MTV's brilliant '90s sketch comedy "The State" and Comedy Central's earlier hit "Viva Variety!"

The talent is there, but right now the characters and set-ups are too generic and predictable to reach the level of hilarity that "The State" accomplished in every skit.

**MORE INFO**

**'Unconditional Love'**
Starz!
Premiers Aug. 2 at 9 p.m.

**'Reno 911!'**
Comedy Central
Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m.

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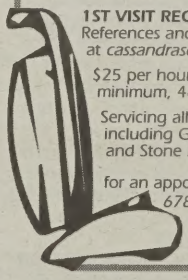

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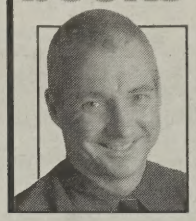

Relationship of **legendary lesbian authors** Patricia Highsmith, Marijane Meaker took more than 40 years to get down on paper.

# Love finally speaks its name

IN THE EARLY 1950S, PATRICIA Highsmith wrote what was then a rarity in lesbian fiction: A novel with a happy ending.

Her own life was a different story.

"I can't believe what she became," says Marijane Meaker, whose affectionate but candid memoir about her onetime lover is the first of several books about Highsmith being published this year.

In "Highsmith: A Romance of the 1950s," Meaker creates a richly detailed portrait of a fascinating lesbian writer whose metier was twisted suspense and whose personality became sadly twisted by alcoholism in later years.

Meaker's brisk, witty and occasionally touching book also offers an account of the drama-packed romance of two tough, talented and free-spirited women in the lesbian-literary world of the '50s and early '60s.

"Highsmith" is also the story of Meaker, a prolific, genre-hopping author who wrote her own landmark novel of lesbian love a half century ago, and has since written "somewhere around 50" books.

Lesbian author Marijane Meaker talks honestly about her affair with fellow writer Patricia Highsmith in '**Highsmith: a Romance of the 1950s**.'

MEAKER DIDN'T RETURN HOME TO Auburn, N.Y., after graduating from college in 1949, heading instead to Manhattan, where she began sampling the city's abundant, if closeted, lesbian social life.

In the early '50s, Meaker also began writing the novel that would not only become her first published book, but would set her up for life: "Spring Fire."

"I got to know the editor Dick Carroll," Meaker said. "We used to go to the Algonquin for drinks, and I told him I wanted to write a novel about my lesbian experience in boarding school"

Written under the name Vin Packer (another of Meaker's many pseudonyms), "Spring Fire" was published in 1952 and went on to sell 1.5 million copies.

It was in the underground lesbian scene that she met Highsmith, who was famous among lesbians as Claire Morgan, the pseudonymous author of "The Price of Salt."

Highsmith was 38, Meaker was 32, and they were quite different. But there was chemistry between the two writers from the start.

"I like to think she was always a gentleman," Meaker said, noting that Highsmith's politesse was matched by her finesse.

Meaker was jealous of Highsmith's past experiences, and she suggested they move to a farmhouse near New Hope, Pa.

"Highsmith" includes a number of lovely passages about their lives there, but the isolation seems to have worked against the relationship.

It didn't help that Highsmith, who always carried a switchblade, had a somewhat ominous side. She was also a prodigious drinker.

Their breakup left them estranged for nearly 30 years.

In painfully honest detail, the book describes the changes in Highsmith upon their 1992 reunion.

Highsmith and Meaker continued to correspond after Highsmith returned to Europe, where she died in 1995.

A FEW YEARS LATER, THE FILM VERsion of "The Talented Mr. Ripley" renewed interest in Highsmith's work. But Meaker hadn't intended to write a book about her former partner.

"I was working on my own memoir," she said. "And Pat was a chapter."

Nevertheless, Highsmith began taking up more and more space in Meaker's memories.

Meaker decided to make Highsmith what she calls "my vehicle for telling about gay life in the '50s and '60s," even though she quickly adds, "Pat would have hated that."

And while Meaker plans to read the upcoming biographies about her former partner, she's quite satisfied with "Highsmith."

"I think Pat's in there," she said.

**FOR MORE INFO**

**'Highsmith: A Romance of the 1950s'**
Cleis Press
210 pp., $14.95


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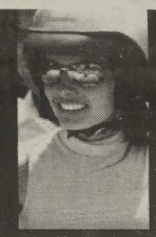

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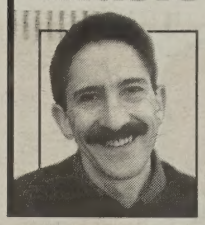


Two gay modern masters among singers who **bring to life** works of gay composer Benjamin Britten.

# Gay composer gets his due

THE MUCH ANTICIPATED PAIRING OF the greatest young gay tenor, Ian Bostridge, and the most versatile gay countertenor, David Daniels, on a compilation of gay comoposer Benjamin Britten yields impressive results.

"Britten: The Canticles/Folksong Arrangements" is a 75-minute disc pairing the 20th century composer's five Christian-inspired Canticles with seven of his most deeply felt folksong settings. It deserves a place in every music lover's collection

Britten, who wrote much of his vocal music for his life-partner, tenor Peter Pears, was a devout Christian and pacifist who frequently used his composing skills to cope with conflicting ideologies and their consequent toll on humanity.

The first three of his extended Canticles were composed in the late 1940s and early 1950s, shortly after the composition of the seven folksong settings heard here and the couple's self-imposed exile to America during World War II. The last two Canticles date from Britten's final period of composition in the early 1970s.

"CANTICLE I: MY BELOVED IS MINE" is a tenor setting of a 17th century elaboration on a line from the Biblical Book of Canticles. But to lavender ears, it comes across as an ardent declaration of male love.

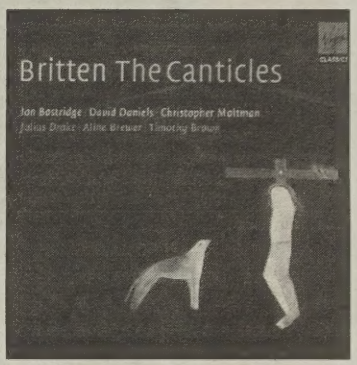
Immediately appealing in its lyrical flow, this ecstatic mini-cantata finds a welcome home in the warmth and sweetness of Bostridge's voice.

Equally appealing is "Canticle II: Abraham and Isaac." Composed in 1952 for the irreplaceable duo of tenor Pears and alto Kathleen Ferrier, it finds fresh realization in the inspired partnership of Bostridge and Daniels.

The men's voices blend wonderfully, with countertenor Daniels sounding ideally innocent and pure as Abraham's sacrificial son.

Thanks to a recent release in the BBC "Britten The Performer" series, we can hear a 1956 recording of "Canticle III: Still Falls the Rain," in which Britten and horn virtuoso Dennis Brain accompany Pears a year after the work was composed.

This setting of poet Edith Sitwell's searing indictment of war faithfully captures Pears' unique ability to voice suffering and spiritual decadence in a manner equally hypnotic and repellant. Drake's pianism is not be as searing as Britten's, and the recording of Timothy Brown's horn is a little too distant. But Bostridge uses his beautiful, evenly produced voice and probing intelligence to create a deeply felt, emotionally convincing portrayal of Christ's suffering.




Gay tenor Ian Bostridge pairs with gay countertenor David Daniels on a love song originally written for a straight duet on the CD tribute to gay composer Benjamin Britten titled '**Britten: The Canticles/Folksong Arrangements**.'

THE LAST TWO CANTICLES ARE SETtings of poems by T.S. Eliot. "Canticle IV: Journey of the Magi" pairs Bostridge and Daniels with baritone Christopher Maltman. "Canticle V: The Death of Saint Narcisssus," features harpist Aline Brewer and Bostridge in an effective realization of Saint Sebastian pierced by arrows.

Even with the benefit of modern recording technology, there is little comparison to early folk recordings led by Britten, Pears and their contemporaries. Soprano Arleen Auger's version of "Down by the Salley Gardens" is unforgettable with its blend of pristine beauty, womanly maturity and open heart.

Here, seven of Britten's folksongs are variously distributed among Maltman, Daniels and Bostridge. These new recordings are not ideal. Maltman sounds luscious in "The Plough Boy," but he's hardly as deep as Auger in "The Salley Gardens" and Pears in "The foggy, foggy dew."

Daniels overdoes some of the pathos in "O Waly, Waly," and Bostridge refuses to let "Greensleeves" sing for itself.

Regardless, if you have never experienced the depth that Britten's genius leant to simple folk melodies, these performances, accompanied by a piano at its resonant best, will offer revelations.

**MORE INFO**

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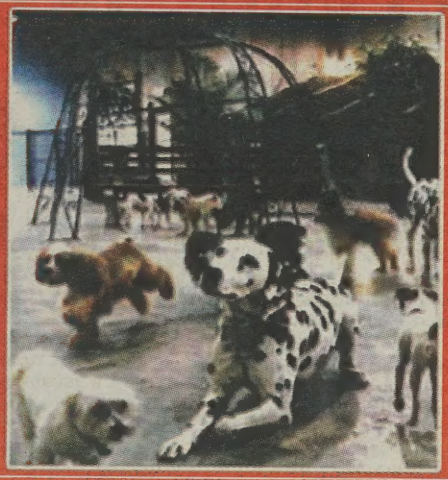

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**dish** There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Everyone from Katharine Hepburn to Harry Potter is being **outed as gay**. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

# Everyone is gay!

LATELY IT SEEMS SOMEONE WAVED a wand and sprinkled fairy dust all over famous people. In the past couple of weeks, celebrities have come out or have been outed in the media.

Stars past, present and future and even fictional characters are now standing underneath the alphabet soup umbrella.

First off is the late, great **KATHARINE HEPBURN** and her lifelong love **SPENCER TRACY**. Her biographer Anne Edwards told Publisher's Weekly, "I was able to say that she lived a bisexual life most of her life. She and Spencer were great beards for each other throughout their lives. ... This was, after all, a woman who married a gay man and took her longtime companion, Laura Harding, on their honeymoon."

Edwards' book "Katharine Hepburn: A Remarkable Woman" was reissued after the actress' death and was followed by the recent publication of gay biographer A. Scott Berg's book "Kate Remembered."

"[Hepburn] told me, 'I don't care what you write as long as it's not the truth,'" Edwards said. "She was a woman who fictionalized her life to the public. She romanticized and fictionalized her relationship with Spencer, a bisexual, abusive alcoholic."

Next up is **ANGELINA JOLIE**, who we all knew was a little left of center. She finally went on the record about her past relationships with women during an interview with Barbara Walters on July 11.

"I was surprised when I suddenly found myself having these feelings I always had for men, but for a woman, and wanting to kiss her and wanting to touch her," Jolie said on the show.

Unlike the information about Hepburn, at least this comes from Jolie's mouth.

But Jolie won't identify as bisexual.

"I consider myself a very sexual person," she said. "If I fell in love with a woman tomorrow, it's right to want to kiss her and touch her."

When faced with a real "non-straight" woman, Walters didn't steal a sample kiss from Jolie like she did when interviewing the straight **JULIANNE MOORE** about her lesbian kiss in "The Hours."

WHILE JOLIE IS TRYING TO FIGURE out what to call herself, some literary scholars are trying to figure out **HARRY POTTER**'s sexual orientation.

"The interplay between the world of magic and the world of Muggles [those who don't use magic] in the Potter books

Silver screen legends **Spencer Tracy** and **Katharine Hepburn** were lovers, frequent co-stars, and perhaps, each others' beards, according to Hepburn's biographer.

is identical to the way that queer historians and sociologists describe the interplay between the closeted gay world and the mainstream world," writes critic Michael Bronski in the Boston Phoenix.

"What are we to make of the fact that Harry, before he learns of his true identity, is forced to live in a closet? Or that before he learns of his acceptance to Hogwarts he is preparing to go to Stonewall High School," he writes.

**J.K. ROWLING**, the author of the books, has no comment about the flap, which has been all the rage in the London papers. A "source close to the author" told the London Mirror, "It is astonishing the interpretation people can put on something. There is nothing in these claims."

Harry Potter.

WELL-KNOWN ATLANTA POLITICAL columnist and commentator **TOM HOUCK** hosted about 200 well-heeled locals at Fritti restaurant in Inman Park on July 13 to celebrate the release of the latest novel from Southern author **DOTTIE FRANK**.

Guests noshed on pizza and antipasti and had a chance to have their copies of "Isle of Palms" signed by Frank, a former housewife who does for the real-life island near Charleston, S.C. what she did for its neighbor "Sullivan's Island" a few years ago.

Frank's latest protagonist, **ANNA ABBOTT**, would have been right at home at the Fritti soiree. Since Abbott's ex-husband is gay, she would have floated easily between the hip middle-aged couples and several attractive gay guests.

Send comments, suggestions to Dish@sovo.com.

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## SATURDAY JULY 19

Pop acoustic songstress **Melanie Hammet** and other female artists perform at a benefit for Charis Circle programs at 6 p.m. at Sweet Java Brown, 1994 Hosea L. Williams Drive. 404-522-9912, www.chariscircle.org

**'Centaurs: Drunk on American Ballyhoo,'** an exhibition of works by artist Troy Eittreim, opens with a reception from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and runs until Aug. 23 at Eyedrum Art & Music Gallery, 290 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 8. 404-522-0655, www.eyedrum.org

## SUNDAY JULY 20

The Coca-Cola Film Festival brings the life of bisexual Mexican painter Frida Kahlo back to the big screen in **'Frida,'** starring Salma Hayek, at 8 p.m. at Fox Theatre, 660 Peachtree St. NE. 404-881-2100, www.foxtheatre.org, www.ticketmaster.com

## TUESDAY JULY 22

'Bad-ass dyke' singer **Nomy Lamm** headlines a show of music and spoken-word artistry at 9 p.m. at My Sister's Room, 222 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-370-1990, www.mysistersroom.com, www.nomylamm.com

## WEDNESDAY JULY 23

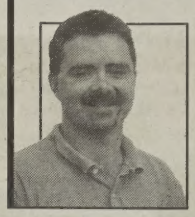
Lesbian author **Penny Mickelbury** reads from her mystery novel 'Love Notes' at 7:30 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-522-9912, www.chariscircle.org.

## THURSDAY JULY 24

**Virginia Spencer Carr** discusses her book 'Lonely Hunter,' a biography of Georgia-born author and lesbian favorite Carson McCullers, at 7:30 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE. 404-522-9912, www.chariscircle.org

**To add a listing**, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Christopher Seely. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

**theater** JIM FARMER



Lessons, reflections on **trip to Africa** provide fodder for intriguing, minimalist one-man show at Little Five Points venue.

# Discovering ancestral homeland

LIKE THE ANNUAL GEORGIA Shakespeare Festival summer triple feature, the second leg of Horizon's New South Festival is almost always bankable. The Little Five Points company presents the regional premiere of Carlyle Brown's one-man show "The Fula From America: An African Journey."

Using an almost bare stage and minimal props, Brown starts his monologue by telling how he came across some money in 1981 and decided to visit his motherland, Africa. Some of the play's funniest moments come before he boards the plane, as he casts doubts about the continent, with thoughts of Tarzan — "some white man swinging through the jungle."

"Brothers couldn't even get a job being Africans," he laughs at how the early Tarzan movies were cast.

When Brown arrives and tells locals that he is an American visiting his homeland, he gets the inevitable question "Are you here to find your people like Alex Haley?"

During his time there, he meets a dozen or so vivid characters, all of which he memorably brings to life. The first is a guide who picks up on the fact that Brown is new to the area. The guide initially steals from Brown but later becomes a friend.

THE SHOW RUNS APPROXIMATELY 90 minutes with no intermission. The middle sequences can bog down, but it's to the performer's credit that he is able to relay so much information.

Brown grew up in Charleston, S.C., and knew no languages other than English before his departure. So he is surprised when he visits a certain area and is able to pick up Kiro, an African-American dialect he was familiar with as a child.

Other small surprises ensue. In Manhattan, the performer says, he has no problem being around other people but still being by himself when he needs to. But the African people don't have a concept of "being alone," and when he tells his guide he needs some space, his comments aren't comprehended.

"The Fula From America" starts off rather frivolously, but by the end has touched on deeper issues including war and the poverty faced by so many. As the locals learn more about him, Brown becomes known as the "Fula from America" to the townspeople.

Traveling through Senegal, Mali, Gambi, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone, Brown is — at one point late in his travels — mistaken for a spy.

The show came to Horizon by default, ironically. The original feature in the festival was deemed too expensive to produce, so Horizon artistic director Lisa Adler opted for Brown's more budget-friendly production instead.

Playwright **Carlyle Brown** brings his dynamic one-man play 'The Fula From America: An African Journey' to Horizon Theatre as part of the annual New South Festival.

Brown comes across as likable and perceptive, a spirited storyteller with his own voice in the same vein as a Spalding Gray. His journey — and his show — aren't quite as profound as he thinks, but ultimately both are very palatable, and in the end rather touching.

ELSEWHERE, GAY FAVE PATSY CLINE is the subject of the musical "Always... Patsy Cline" now playing at Stone Mountain's ART Station. It's not so much the story of the country crooner but a tale of a fan and how her meeting with Cline changes her life.

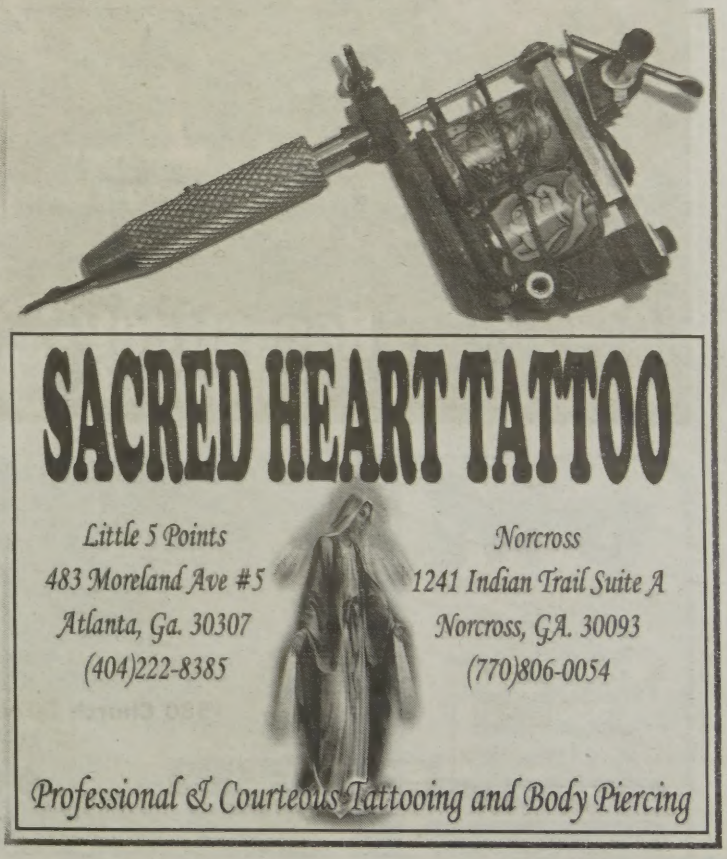
Next week, Theater of the Stars presents "The Sound of Music," complete with its Rodgers and Hammerstein score, before the musical goes on tour. This version stars Maria Schaffel, a Tony nominee for "Jane Eyre" and the lead in last season's "My Fair Lady."

## MORE INFO

**'The Fula from America: An African Journey'**
Horizon Theater
Corner of Euclid and Austin Avenues
Through Aug. 10
404-523-1477

**'Always... Patsy Cline'**
ART Station
5384 Manor Drive
Through Aug. 10
770-469-1105

**'The Sound of Music'**
The Fox Theatre
660 Peachtree St.
July 22-27
404-817-8700



# nightlife calendar

## FRIDAY JULY 18

**ARMORY**. Le Femme Royale, 11 p.m. 404-881-9280

**BACKSTREET**. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret Show, 11 p.m. 404-873-1986.

**BLAKE'S**. Bingo with Bubba D. Licious, 6-8 p.m. 404-892-5786.

**BLU**. 404-877-1221.

**THE BREAKING POINT**. Gong show talent contest, late karaoke. 770-426-4199

**BULLDOGS**. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop. 404-872-3025.

**CHAPARRAL**. Gay night. 2715 Buford Highway. 404-634-3737

**CLUB KINK**. Pansexual Night Out, 9 p.m. - 4 a.m. BYOB. 404-505-8848.

**COLOURS**. Hip Hop and house night. 678-702-0872.

**EAGLE**. 404-873-2453.

**HERETIC**. Sweat, 10 p.m. - 4 a.m. 404-325-3061.

**LE BUZZ**. TGIF celebration. 770-424-1337.

**MARY'S**. "Danceteria," 9 p.m. 404-624-4411.

**METRO**. "Transfixion" live music, midnight. 404-874-9869.

**MODEL T**. Le Box All Male Revue, 10 p.m. 404-872-2209.

**MY SISTERS' ROOM**. 404-370-1990.

**OSCAR'S**. 404-874-7748.

**RED CHAIR RESTAURANT & VIDEO LOUNGE**. 404-870-0532

**RICO'S VIEW ON PONCE**. 404-873-3220

## SATURDAY JULY 19

**ARMORY**. Le Femme Royale, 11 p.m.

**BACKSTREET**. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret Show, 11 p.m. upstairs.

**BLAKE'S**. Super Saturdays Talent Show.

**BLU**. 404-877-1221.

**THE BREAKING POINT**. Dance party, kitchen's open 5-11 p.m.

**BULLDOGS**. Old school, hip hop, and urban dance music.

**CLUB KINK**. Serious BDSM Play Night, 8 p.m. – 3 a.m. BYOB.

**COLOURS**. Male review party with men from original Jaguar, midnight.

**LE BUZZ**. Dixie Encore with Tequila Mockingbird, 10:30 p.m.

**METRO**. Caliente! Latin Music, 10 p.m.

**MODEL T**. Drag show featuring the Model Teez Girlz, 11 p.m.

**TRIPPS**. Linda Michaels' Showcase Showdown, first and third Saturdays, 10 p.m. and midnight. 404-724-0067

## SUNDAY JULY 20

**BACKSTREET**. "Sunday Church", 2 a.m.

**BLAKE'S**. Blake's Big Time Drag Review, 9:30 p.m.

**BUDDIES ON CHESHIRE BRIDGE**. Morticia DeVille and the Atlanta Gospel Hour, 8:30 p.m. 404-634-5895.

**CHAPARRAL**. Hip-Hop Night, doors open 10 p.m.

**EAGLE**. Now open 6 p.m. - midnight.

**HERETIC**. Now open 12:30 p.m. to midnight, dancefloor 6 p.m. to midnight.

**METRO**. Sunday T. Open 4 p.m.-midnight.

**RED CHAIR**. Brunch, 11:30-3 p.m. Red Chair Revue starring Bubba D. Licious, Deva Station and Fajita Marinara, 9 p.m.

**TRIPPS**. Sunday starters with Tami.

## MONDAY JULY 21

**ARMORY**. "Mouth of the South" Live 9:30 p.m.

**THE BREAKING POINT**. Free pool, forming new dart leagues.

**BUDDIES ON CHESHIRE BRIDGE**. Free pool until 8 p.m. 404-634-5895.

**BULLDOGS**. Feel good house night.

**BURKHART'S**. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Kitty LeClaw hosts karaoke, midnight.

**EAGLE**. Free pool and favorite rock music.

**JOE'S ON JUNIPER**. Music Trivia, 8-10 p.m. 404-875-6634.

**LE BUZZ**. Girls night out.

**METRO**. "TRASH." Jesse Moss CD release party. 10 p.m.

**OSCAR'S**. Service industry night, 9 p.m.

**RED CHAIR**. Dinner & a movie, 7:30 p.m.

**RICO'S VIEW**. Karaoke, 9 p.m. 404-873-3220.

## TUESDAY JULY 22

**ARMORY**. 404-881-9280

**BACKSTREET**. Deep, down and dirty, 10 p.m.

**THE BREAKING POINT**. Wet t-shirt contests, truth or dare.

**BULLDOGS**. Solution dance ritual.

**BURKHART'S**. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Karaoke with Tyler King, 10 p.m.

**DRAGONFLY**. Gay night. 18-and-up. Open bar 10-11 p.m. 21 to drink. 404-875-7473.

**EAGLE**. Free pool and favorite rock music.

**HOEDOWNS**. Beginning two-step free dance lessons, 8 p.m.

**JOE'S ON JUNIPER**. Trivia Challenge, 8-10 p.m.

Join the cute gay guys for a Latin spin on Wednesdays and Fridays at **Chaparral**. 404-634-3737. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

**LE BUZZ**. Truth or Dare Trivia & Karaoke, 8 p.m.

**MARY'S**. Mary-oke, 10 p.m.

**METRO**. Latin House music, 10 p.m.

**RED CHAIR**. Ladies Night. Drag Kings at 10 p.m., 10:30 p.m. & 11 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY JULY 23

**ARMORY**. Pandamonium – Death by Disco, 9 p.m.

**BACKSTREET**. Spotlight, 1 a.m.

**BLAKE'S**. Blake's Boys, 10:30 p.m.

**THE BREAKING POINT**. Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.

**BULLDOGS**. Hip Hop, Urban Beats.

**CLUB KINK**. Da' Boy's Night Out – jock straps & lights out party, 8 p.m. – 3 a.m. BYOB.

**COLOURS**. Go-go dancers with men of the original Jaguar, 11:30 p.m.

**EAGLE**. Retro dance music.

**HAZE**. Gay night. 404-249-8900.

**HERETIC**. Dress code party, 10 p.m. - 4a.m.

**HOEDOWN'S**. Intermediate two-step free dance lessons.

**JOE'S ON JUNIPER**. Live music by Alice Muson and Friends on 100-seat patio, weather permitting.

**LE BUZZ**. Dance Out Loud, Rump Night,10 p.m.

**METRO**. Class & Ass Show with Felicia Sapphire, Neasia and Yanae. Midnight.

**OSCAR'S**. Comedy Night, 9 p.m.

**RED CHAIR**. Lust & Bust Show starring Lena Lust, Shawnna Brooks, Martina Diamante, and Ashley Kruiz, 10 p.m.

**RICO'S VIEW**. Leather, Levi fetish night, 9 p.m.

**SWINGING RICHARDS**. No cover with bar-employee ID. 404-352-0532.

**TRIPPS**. Champion Karaoke with Aaron, 10 p.m.

**VISION**. Skin and Sin Wednesdays, open bar from 10-11 p.m. 404-874-4460.

**WHISKEYPEACH**. "Are You Hot" contest, the search for Atlanta's hottest boy. Doors open 9 p.m. 404-745-9551.

## THURSDAY JULY 24

**ARMORY**. Big Thursdays, 11 p.m.

**BACKSTREET**. Charlie Brown's X-rated Cabaret, 11 p.m.

**BLAKE'S**. Calendar Boy Contest, 10:30 p.m.

**THE BREAKING POINT**. Piano & band night.

**BULLDOGS**. Trash disco, soulful house, and hip-hop.m.

**BURKHART'S**. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Karaoke, 10 p.m.

**CHAPARRAL**. Asian Night, doors open 9 p.m.

**CLUB KINK**. Chicks But No Sticks Party, 8 p.m. – 3 a.m. BYOB.

**COLOURS**. Latin Night. Drag show with Cliques Buenestro, midnight.

**EAGLE**. Underwear party with clothes check.

**HERETIC**. Rapture Party, 10 p.m. - 4a.m.

**HOEDOWNS**. Line waltz free dance lessons, 8 p.m.

**JOE'S ON JUNIPER**. 80s retro trivia

**LE BUZZ**. Karaoke, 10 p.m.

**MARY'S**. Beat Surrender, 9:30 p.m.

**METRO**. "Ultimate Divas" at midnight.

**MODEL T**. Talent search with Jewell Holiday, 10 p.m.

**OSCAR'S**. Pure energy, pure video, 9 p.m.

**RED CHAIR**. Karaoke with Ruby Red, 9:30 p.m.

**RICO'S VIEW**. S.H.E. meeting, 7 p.m.

**TRIPPS**. Country night with Ron "Big Lick" Haller and Ms. Big Pretty, 9 p.m.

**To add a listing**, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 32, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Van Gower. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

**nightlife** PENNY WHITE

Atlanta's premier **lesbian bar** offers great DJs, live music, killer company, the **perfect place** to end an evening.

Whether looking for a place to whoop it up on the dance floor, cozy up with a date or party with friends, lesbians know that My Sisters' Room has something for every inclination. (Photos by R.O. Youngblood)

# Wrap up the night

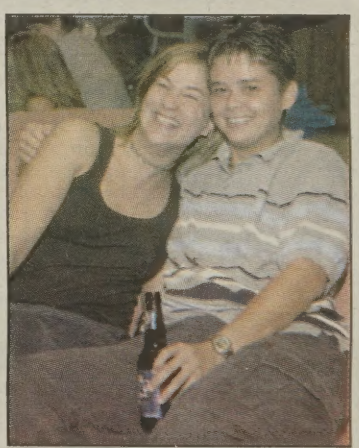
THE FAMILIAR CAMEO SIGN AT 222 Howard Ave. is an iconic beacon to Atlanta's lesbians. It marks the location of My sisters' Room, one of the city's best known lesbian bars.

The burg of Decatur is known for its strong lesbian population, so it's appropriate that sisters' is within walking distance of Decatur Square, nestled just behind the Relax Inn and Dairy Queen at the corner of West Trinity Place and Howard Avenue and just across from an active railroad track.

The place is more of a hidden gem than a flashy nightclub.

"It feels safe because it's not on a main street," says Assistant Manager Felicia Trezza. "Women who come here feel like they have a tiny little corner of their own."

The entrance to sisters' sets the overall tone for the "parlour and garden." Constructed of two-by-fours, the gate lends authenticity to the rustic charm of the building, once a horse stables.



The marble tile beneath the covered patio and hardwood floors in the barroom heighten the charming looks.

But don't let looks fool you. sisters' is quaint and charming during quiet times, but it can be a hopping place with several hundred women making their way through the door on weekend nights alone.

Quite a few women head downstairs from the bar to bump and grind on the 24 foot by 16 foot jam-packed dance floor, a recent addition to sisters'. There are no complaints about the close proximity of the dancers, and interested observers can watch the fun from the stairway or a tiny balcony overlooking the dance floor.

DJ Sancho spins "girl tunes" on Thursday nights, throwing Melissa Etheridge and Indigo Girls into mix. Sancho offers up '70s and '80s tunes on Friday nights with DJ MD taking over on Saturday nights with dance tunes for Dance Party Saturdays.

FOR THOSE SEEKING A CORNER AWAY from the madding crowd, the quaint gazebo in the garden out back — a replacement for the once notorious tee-pee — provides space for a moment of quiet conversation or solitude.

sisters' kitchen offers standard American fare along with beer and mixed drinks from the bar. Wings, club sandwiches (an excellent choice!), burgers and fried mushrooms are included on an updated menu.

Wednesdays are Karaoke nights, and Thursdays are tentatively planned for musicians open mic nights beginning in August.

On Tuesday, July 22, check out lesbian singer Nomy Lamm along with gay spoken word artist Sinni Anderson and "punk-ass queer Mexican rapper" Rigamortis. Amy Steinberg plays July 25 and Laura Blakely on Aug. 22.

Also penciled on the calendar are appearances by lesbian rockers Halcyon beginning in September.

Most lesbians agree: a night on the town isn't complete without a stop at My sisters' Room.

"We always hit sisters' last," says Sandy Harbinger of Norcross. "We make the early rounds of other places, but we make sisters' our last stop of the night."

Harbinger claims that sisters' is the only way to wind down that Saturday night date.

sisters' hosts occasional Drag King shows as well as benefits for the Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative, women's sports teams and other causes.

sisters' is also available for rent prior to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday for special occasions such as weddings and birthday parties.

## MORE INFO

**My sisters' Room**
Wednesday - Sunday, 8 p.m. - 2 a.m.
extended to 4 a.m. if large crowd.
222 East Howard Ave.
Decatur
404.370.1990
www.mysistersroom.com

**Nomy Lamm, Sinni Anderson, Rigamortis**
July 22, 9 p.m.

**Amy Steinberg**
July 25, 9 p.m.

## THIS WEEK IN ECLIPSE

**CIRCUIT PLANNER:**
WHERE TO FND PARTY BOYS THE REST OF THE SEASON.

**BEHIND THE SCENE:**

DJ MATT COLUNGA SAYS STRIPPERS ARE BORING AND ATLANTANS ARE TOO SEXUAL.

**NEED WOOD:**
CHICKEN HAWKS SHOULD TAKE OWN ADVICE WHEN CALLING OTHERS AGE-BIASED.

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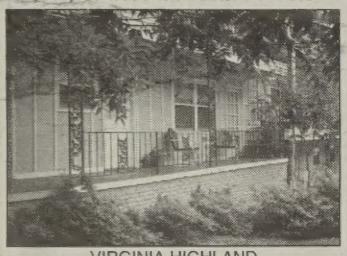

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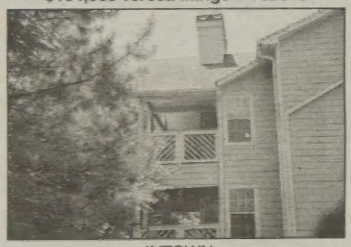

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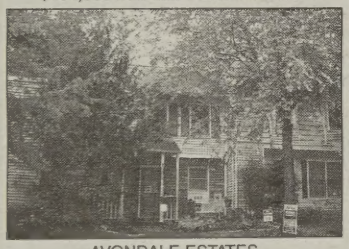

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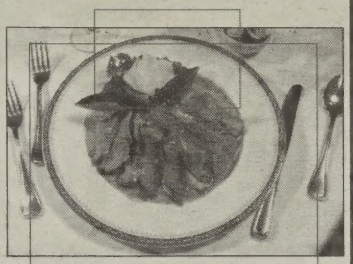

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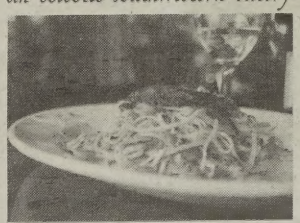

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**dining** JONATHAN LERNER

Cheshire corridor not known for class offers venue with **delicious fare**, but **overbearing atmosphere** hard to take.

# Great food, obnoxious milieu

THE SLOGAN AT THE GREEK restaurant Taverna Plaka on Cheshire Bridge Road reads, "Neighborhood of the Gods."

This must refer to the Plaka district of Athens, located just below the sacred Acropolis — not to this Atlanta locale near the Heretic, the Chamber, various "lingerie modeling" establishments and other sexually-charged venues.

My feelings after dining at Taverna Plaka are as tortured as those of a protagonist in a tragedy by Sophocles. On the whole, I love the food — but I loathe the atmosphere.

I would only return in a large, boisterous party. Then I could goof on the theatricality of the place but feel protected from its aggressiveness.

First on my list of what I dislike is mandatory valet parking. Follow that with service that is breathless and erratic, but wheedling: as in, "Let me quickly fill your glasses to the very rim, so that I can try to sell you another bottle of wine."

The staff also blatantly ignores the DeKalb County ordinance banning smoking in restaurants, and relentless thumping loud music gets louder when the belly dancer does her thing.

As I often remark, restaurant reviewing is totally subjective. You may have a different take. Anyway, let's not talk of unpleasant things, but of the wonderful food.

THE LARGEST PART OF THE MENU consists of mezedes, small plates of savory goodies perfect for sharing, one after another, with drinks. At Taverna Plaka, these plates are not actually that small, though their prices are mostly $4 to $8.

Then there are a few platters: wood fired meats or fish ($11-$18); souvlaki (marinated, skewered, grilled meat chunks, $9-$11); a couple of casseroles ($9-$11) and some side dishes ($4.50). These aptly represent traditional Greek cuisine, which is characterized by simplicity and, well, lots of olive oil.

I like that all the wines offered are of Greek origin. The Kir-Yianni Ramnista ($44), from a grape called xinomavro, is not as full and intense as promised, but has a velvety smoothness like a Pinot Noir, and it works with a range of dishes.

Arriving with your bread is a mortar and pestle containing the ingredients of hummus, which you smash up yourself. A fun idea. But something seems missing from the mix, because the result is bland.

After that, things get better fast. Saganaki, a slab of cheese flamed with rum and then doused with a big squeeze of lemon, was totally yummy. It's made of kefalograviera, a salty, semi-hard sheep's milk cheese that retains its integrity even when toasted to a lovely gold.

A DISH OF TENDER ROASTED PEPpers is fantastic. It includes red bell peppers and slightly hot banana peppers, their delicate charred skins flaking off, set in a pool of herbaceous oil perfect for sopping with bread.

Grilled lamb sausage, meant to be taken with retsina, the heady pine-resin-spiked white wine, has great complex flavor, and a chewy, coarse, rustic texture.

The bakalarios (salt cod and potato puree) might be delicious too, but it never arrives on my visit. Big grilled sardines — one of the plates intended for munching along with a glass of ouzo, the licorice-scented brandy — do show up, but trail a fishy-smelling cloud of vapor that makes them less appetizing than they look.

But a huge platter of rotisserie lamb that is first marinated in oil, lemon and herbs, is wonderful. It has all the barnyard aroma you want from lamb and is tender enough to cut with a fork.

Eat it with the terrific zucchini croquettes, which are snappily crisp on the outside, moist and fluffy within. Try saucing these with an order of the tangy tzatziki, cucumber and yogurt spread.

Taverna Plaka offers great food, by and large, but I found the atmosphere obnoxious. Your call.

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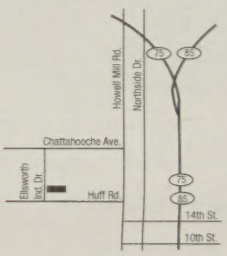


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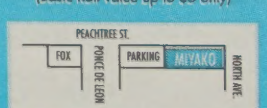


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# Sexual orientation remains complicated for Harris

E. LYNN HARRIS, continued from Page 37

said that he has no sexual attraction to women. But in a subsequent interview with Southern Voice, he appears to backpedal.

"I have always said I just want a monogamous relationship with someone who loves me as much as I love them," Harris says. "If that happens to be with a man, then so be it."

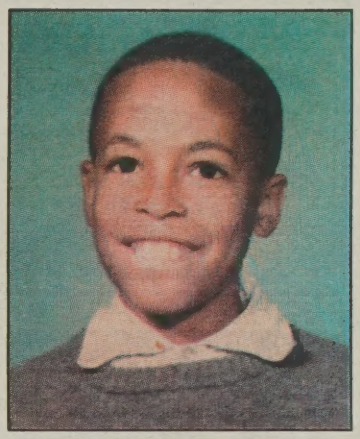
Harris is a master of separate marketing to his straight black female audience and his equally strong gay male fan base. The scheduled appearances in very different Atlanta venues are just one example.

Harris' novels were watersheds for blacks who previously went without examples of men who don't identify as gay but have same-sex affairs on "the down low." He was the first to express that the double life contributed to rising HIV infections among black women.

And in interviews with mainstream and black media outlets, the author appears to continue reaching out to varied audiences in different ways.

"I am very much 'the man [in male-male relationships],'" Harris told the AJC in the July 13 article. "I have a take-control type of personality. ... I was raised to be in charge, to be the man, if you will."

There is a cultural precept among blacks that within gay relationships, one man plays the "male role" and one plays the "female role," and there is an unspoken understanding that the "male role" carries more respect, Harris tells Southern Voice.



As a teen, **E. Lynn Harris** realized he was 'different from other boys.' His continuing struggle with sexual orientation is chronicled in his recently released memoir. (Photo courtesy E. Lynn Harris)

"There's a lot of pressure within the African American community to be responsible," Harris says. "And that means that however you want to live sexually, you need to be the head of a family, be the breadwinner. Many in the community view [homosexuality] as a loss, that you're not contributing to the community.

"I don't agree with that, but a lot of people think it, and that's the environment we live in," he adds.

EVEN IF COMING TO TERMS WITH sexual orientation remains complicated for Harris, "Brokenhearted" is a worthy read and may prove inspirational to those grappling with their own demons.

Unlike his novels, which critics say lack depth and lean toward cliché in weaker moments, the memoir is steeped in interesting anecdotes both sad and triumphant — as well as tidbits that Harris fans will relish, including what the "E" in his name stands for.

Harris attributes his climb toward the man that he is today — complete with an unnamed lover of a decade — to "the three Fs": faith, family and friends.

"The mere fact that I'm here is proof positive that God is here, and He's the center of my life and my joy," Harris says. "I was truly blessed by Him that I never lost family or friends over my sexuality or other issues."

The book ends with Harris' emergence as a writer, his effort to publish his first manuscript and his success that includes the New York Times Best Seller list and a fiercely loyal fan base. The epilogue lists some 100 friends and family members he holds dear.

"I'm glad to be coming home to Atlanta," he says of his part-time home. "The fans are really kind and wonderful. They are a testament to myself as a writer and to themselves for believing that if you take a chance in life, you will be rewarded."

## MORE INFO

**'What Becomes of the Broken Hearted: A Memoir'**
By E. Lynn Harris
Doubleday, 266 pages, $22.95

**E. Lynn Harris Booksignings**
July 18, 7 p.m.
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3637 Peachtree Road NE
404-237-0707

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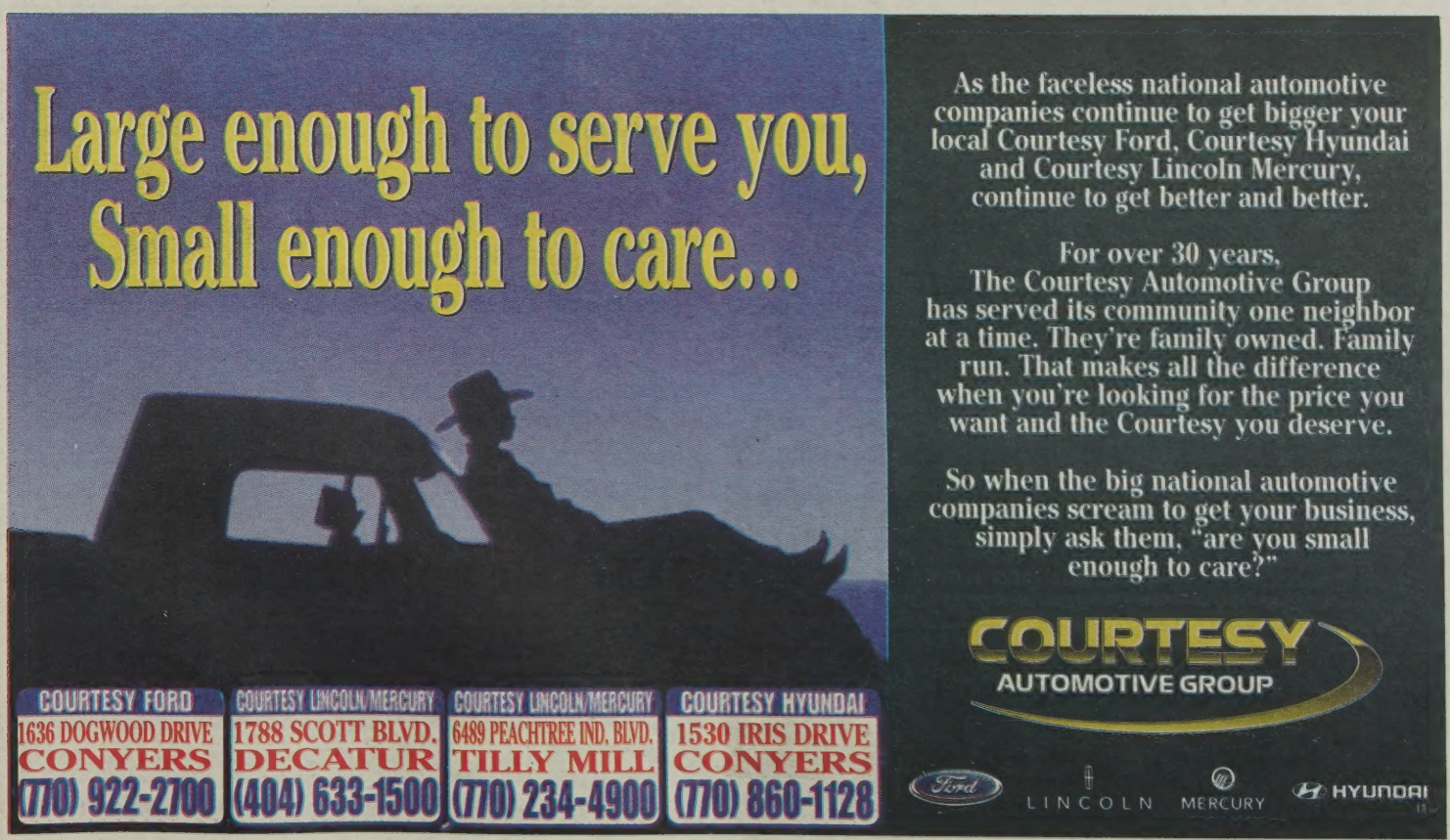
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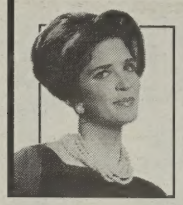
## ms. behavior MERYL COHN



Internet chat turns to romance until lesbian sees the other gal's pic; man may be **jumping to conclusions.**

# Sorry, you're not my type

***Dear Ms. Behavior:***

*I met a woman I'll call Adrienne through an online personal ad and really like her. She finally scanned her photo and sent it to me, and much to my dismay, I don't find her at all attractive.*

*I am so bummed out. Adrienne is not "ugly," but she's really not my type. I don't think of myself as shallow, but I do believe that chemistry is a necessary ingredient in a relationship.*

*I'd love to meet her and be friends, but I'm not thinking about kissing her anymore. Should I tell her now that I'm no longer romantically interested?*

*I'm afraid it will be obvious that it's because I saw her photograph, and I don't want to be hurtful.*

*My friends tell me that I shouldn't meet her and try to be friends because I shouldn't waste her time or mine. But Adrienne is way more interesting than they are.*

*What should I do?*

*—Emily the Terrible*

**Dear Emily:**

You may need a few new friends to supplement the apparently dull ones you have now, and Adrienne might be a good bet. But what's your rush in rejecting her as a prospective date?

There's nothing wrong with waiting until you meet in person to conclude that someone is not your type. Chemistry is a beautiful thing, but it arises from more than just a two-dimensional image.

It depends on things like touch and mannerisms and pheromones, and even on huskiness of voice and lusciousness of smell, which is way more sensory information than you can get in the form of a photograph.

If you like someone's personality, sense of humor and way of being in the world, but they're not your type, then that's good grounds for sticking to nothing more or less than friendship. But occasionally, someone who doesn't appear to be your type will exude a quality that drives you wild, and friendship won't be enough for you.

You can't make it happen, and neither can she. It just has to be there. You'll know, because you won't be able to stop licking her neck.

***Dear Ms. Behavior:***

*After a year of planning, my boyfriend Greg and I are moving together to a new city. Today, during breakfast with friends, we were talking about ex-lovers who are now "straight."*

You and Greg need to talk about how you each feel about monogamy, which should help you to assess whether your feelings of insecurity are based in reality or in your own neurotic little mind.

*Greg mentioned that his old handsome boyfriend Nathan — who is now married to a woman, but still fools around with men — lives in the town we're moving to. I became so anxious that I drank four cosmopolitans.*

*Greg said that my feeling worried was ridiculous, and that he has no interest in Nathan. But Nathan was Greg's most significant boyfriend until I came along, and Greg happened to mention in the past that he and Nathan had "amazing sex."*

*During the entire year of planning our move, why do you suppose Greg neglected to mention that we're moving to Nathan's hometown? I'm not sure I want to move any more. Am I really just being ridiculous?*

*—Don't Want to Play the Fool*

**Dear No Fool:**

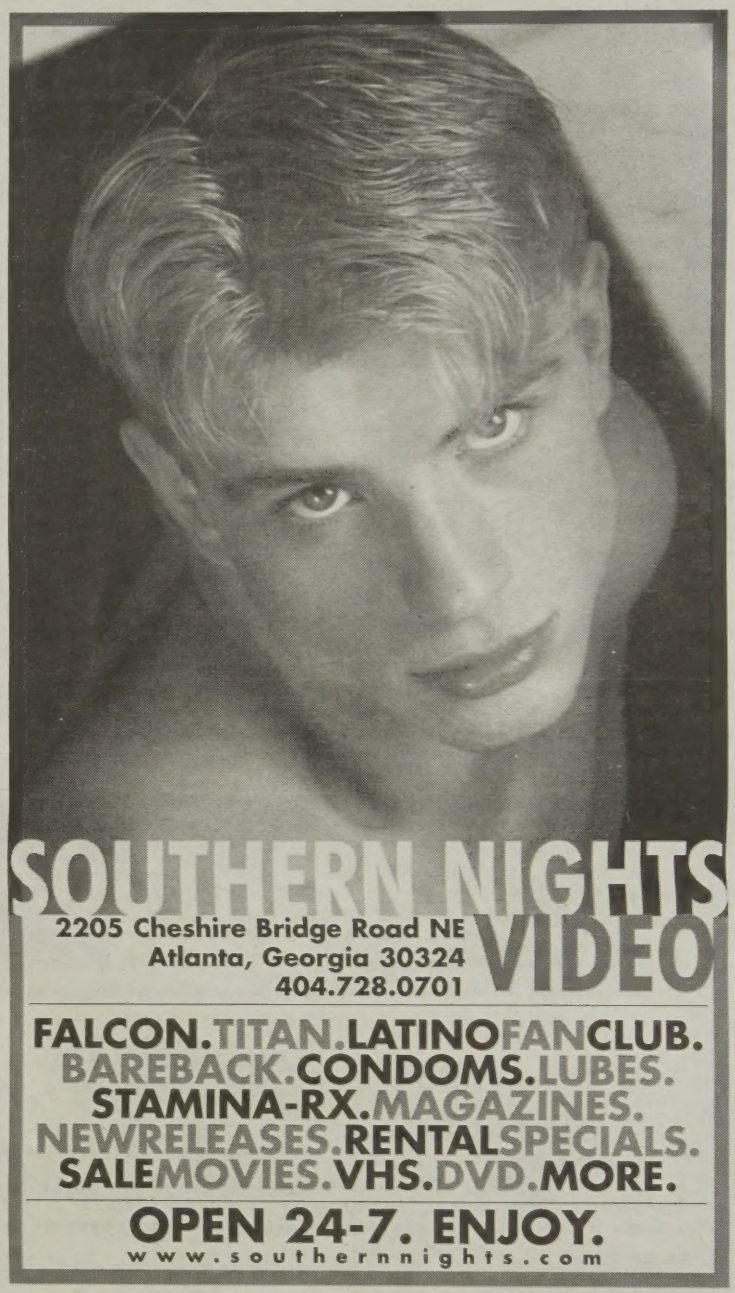
Are you anxious because you think Greg plans to meet Nathan for a drink, talk about old times, unzip Nathan's pants and remind him of why he used to be gay?

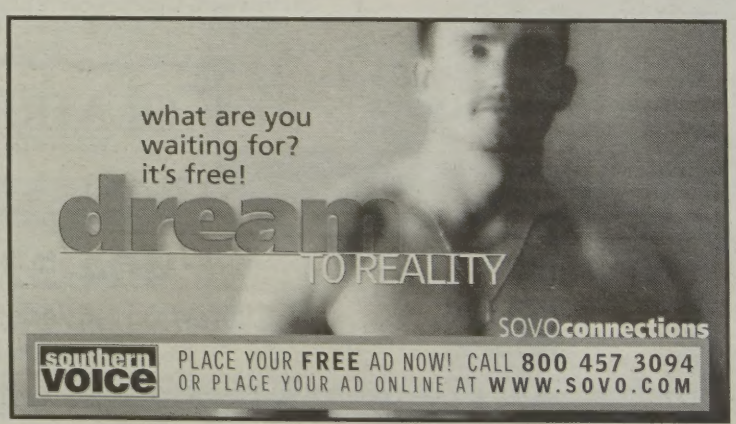
Have you asked Greg directly about whether or not he plans to even see him? Talking about it for a while should give you some sense of Greg's intentions or at least how honest he's prepared to be.

You haven't said what city you're moving to, but hopefully it will be big enough for the three of you. You and Greg need to talk about how you each feel about monogamy, which should help you to assess whether your feelings of insecurity are based in reality or in your own neurotic little mind.

Either way, you can't protect against infidelity by staying where you live now. Your boyfriend, if he wanted to, could have sex with someone else in your current town — or even on your chenille sofa, while you're out buying a bagel and a newspaper.

**Meryl Cohn** is the author of 'Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay & Lesbian Etiquette.' She can be reached at msbehavior@aol.com.



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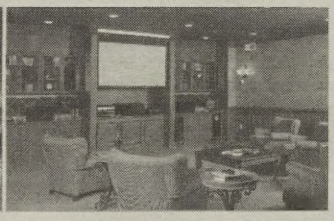

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Designers sometimes forget to peer into their spaces as well as out of them when **creating a home that flows.**

What visitors see through doorways as they approach a room — and how abruptly the eye jumps — is a key consideration when re-designing to flow from one to the other.

# A room that's a view

OFTEN WHEN WE START PLANNING the decor of a room, we do so as if it is an entity unto itself — as if every door in the house will always be tightly shut.

We carefully coordinate fabric, paint, wall covering and window treatments, select furniture with a particular harmony in mind, and give little thought to the room or hallway next to it.

The failing is that as we often think of the view out the windows, but we seldom think of a room as a view in itself. And that's almost always a mistake.

An important part of architecture — and of its interior decoration, especially — is the sequence of spaces, the way in which the rooms flow into one another. The great modernist Frank Lloyd Wright was a master of spatial sequence, always aware of what the viewer would see first when approaching a room, of how the space and doorway before it would affect the way visitor would perceive the room upon entering it.

Wright loved living rooms with ceilings that appeared to vault high above the floor. But his ceilings were seldom all that high. He created the illusion of height by bringing visitors into the room through a tightly constricted hall or vestibule that had dark walls and an almost uncomfortably low ceiling. By comparison, the living room seemed airy, lofty and gracious.

Wright also mastered a device that any good interior designer uses as well: the art of the vignette. He tucked windows and small openings into unexpected places, creating tightly controlled glimpses of views both out of the house and within it.

He planned corridors and rooms with what one saw from one space into another in mind, often constricting the view in a way that made it intriguing, so that it drew one toward the next space.

Few standard contemporary houses are given that kind of care. Apartment and track house dwellers may have to contend with a series of little rooms chopped up and isolated from one another, connected only by narrow doors and skinny hallways.

IT MAY TAKE EFFORT TO CREATE those views into the next space and create a sense of flow from one room to the next. But you can usually make the most of what they do have.

Consider the reality that doors are seldom shut except when a bathroom or bedroom is occupied. Even small houses these days have rooms that connect with arches, glazed doors or half walls. Or they may open into one another with no separation at all.

Being conscious of how these rooms will relate to one another and how the door or archway frames the view into the next room plays a part in making the most of that view.

USE FURNITURE TO ITS FULLEST, both for contrast and for continuity. Be conscious of how it will look from the next room, positioning it in a way that is useful but also shown to an advantage through a narrow doorway.

A small occasional chair and table can be grouped so that its composition is framed in the door, drawing the eye into the room. A really interesting lamp, vase of flowers or picture can accomplish much the same thing.

A carefully placed mirror can force a view that your eye would not normally have when it is placed so that it reflects a room that can't normally be seen from the other end of a long hall or from a narrow doorway.

A mirror may also reflect a view to the outdoors that a windowless room or hallway might not otherwise enjoy.

Use complimentary but contrasting colors to create patterns of light and dark or to draw one toward the view into the next room. A deep green or blue room after one that is bright, sunny yellow can be soothing and inviting after the brightness. That bright yellow or a stark white beyond a deep red can create a welcome glimpse of light.

Be especially conscious of the contrasts between light and dark. A room with inadequate natural light can be made to seem brighter not only with color choices in the room, but without it.

When a corridor or well-lit connecting room is finished in a deep color, the next room will naturally seem brighter.

Finally, never forget what is going on under foot. Many a suite of rooms that might have been effective is spoiled by a thoughtless and abrupt change in the flooring at the doorsill.

Make sure that the edges of wall-to-wall carpets, wood floors and marble all have a thoughtful ending when they do not continue into the next room, or when they meet with a contrasting color of the same material.


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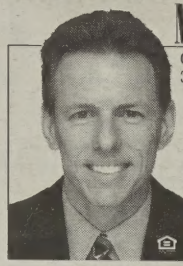

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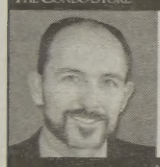

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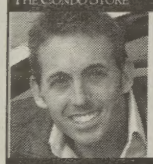

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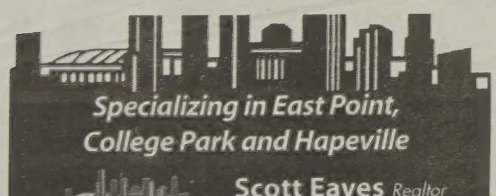

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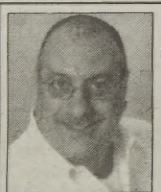

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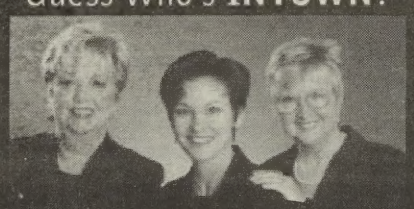

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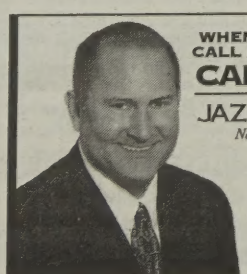

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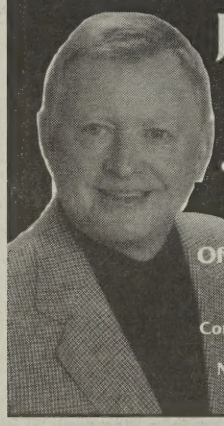

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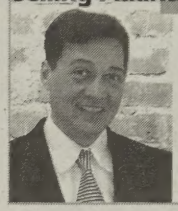

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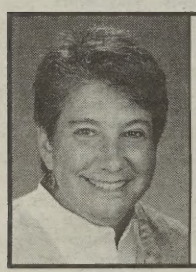

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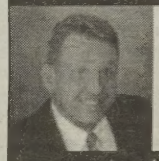

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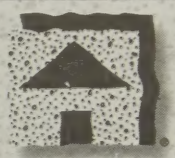

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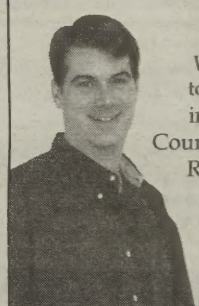

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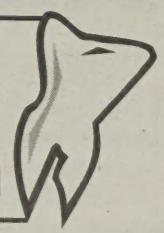

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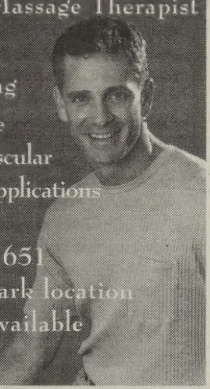

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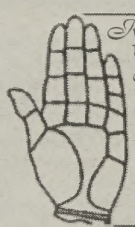

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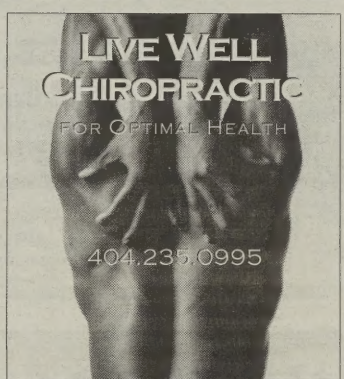

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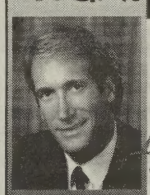

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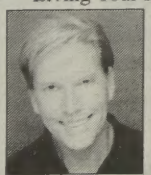

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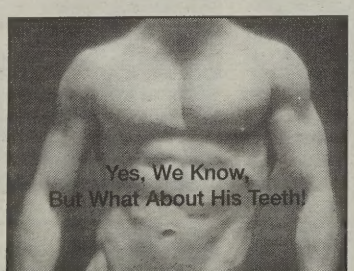


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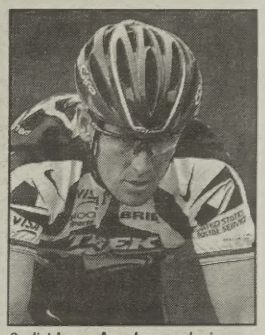
# medical report

## Armstrong charity donates to lesbian cancer group

AUSTIN, Texas — The Lance Armstrong Foundation, a philanthropic organization dedicated to funding cancer-related public-service groups, recently gave $5,000 to the Mautner Project, a lesbian cancer organization, according to a press statement released by the Mautner Project. LAF grants are extremely competitive, according to the statement, and this is the first gay or lesbian organization to receive funding from the five-year-old foundation, dedicated to supporting cancer-survivor organizations. The Mautner Project cares for lesbian, bisexual or transgendered women who are living with cancer or providing support for the victim or her survivors. "We are proud to partner with LAF in their quest to improve the quality of life for all cancer survivors and their families — regardless of their sexual or gender orientation," said Mautner Project Executive Director Kathleen DeBold. "There is so little funding available for lesbian health that it makes no sense for any group to waste time and money starting from scratch. "Lance Armstrong, the world's top cyclist, founded his charity after surviving testicular cancer.



Cyclist **Lance Armstrong**, who is competing in the Tour de France, started a foundation devoted to cancer research. It recently awarded a gift to a lesbian cancer organization. (Photo courtesy of USPS Pro Cycling)

## Thompson: Congress will allocate $2 billion this year for AIDS

PARIS (AP) — Secretary of Health & Human Services Tommy Thompson said Tuesday he is confident lawmakers will approve at least $2 billion this year to launch President Bush's emergency AIDS relief plan for the developing world. Bush announced in his State of the Union address in February a plan to spend $15 billion over five years to combat HIV and AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean. Congress approved the plan earlier this year, and legislation that would make the money available each year is now being developed for fiscal year 2004, which begins Oct. 1. "The process is working. It is moving faster than it has in a long time in Congress," said Thompson, speaking on the sidelines of an international AIDS conference in Paris. He said it was "obvious" U.S. lawmakers would come through.

## Officials worry about high American Indian STD rates

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — High rates of reported sexually transmitted diseases in South Dakota's American Indian population have health administrators worried about the potential for a large HIV outbreak if the disease is introduced into certain behavioral groups. "All it takes is introducing someone with HIV, and we'll have a fairly large outbreak on our hands," Sarah Patrick, a contract epidemiologist for Indian Health Service, said. She said the high number of sexually transmitted diseases reported in American Indians in South Dakota is an indication of unhealthy behaviors that are ideal for nurturing an HIV outbreak. STDs are diagnosed in Indians in South Dakota at a rate higher than the rest of the population, according to a South Dakota Department of Health report. The report indicates that in 2002, Indians had 46 percent of the reported chlamydia cases and 48 percent of the reported gonorrhea cases in South Dakota, even though they comprise 8.3 percent of South Dakota's total population, according to the 2000 census.

## House rejects conservative bid to block four federal grants for sex

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House handed a narrow defeat last week to conservatives who wanted to forbid the National Institutes of Health from giving grants to researchers conducting four sexual research projects, including studies of older men and of San Francisco's Asian prostitutes and masseuses. The 212-210 vote derailed an effort led by Rep. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) to block the grants for next year, which are expected to total $1.4 million. The debate recalled fights waged in Congress a decade ago over arts projects financed by the National Endowment for the Arts. Conservatives led by former Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) argued that taxpayers should not finance objectionable works of art, a controversy that resulted in the endowment revamping the way it decides which projects to back. "I ask my colleagues, who thinks this stuff up?" Toomey said of the sexual research projects.

## Study raises possibility of safe breastfeeding for HIV mothers

PARIS (AP) — New research has raised the possibility of safer breastfeeding for HIV-positive mothers in the developing world, experts said Tuesday. Programs aimed at preventing mother-to-child transmission of the AIDS virus in poor countries involve treatment during pregnancy and only up to one week after childbirth. That halves the risk of the babies getting HIV, but many of those gains are lost when the infants later contract the virus through breastfeeding. Experts say findings presented Tuesday at the biggest AIDS research conference of the year indicate that giving babies a daily AIDS drug from birth through the entire breastfeeding period could reduce the rate of HIV infection through breast milk significantly. However, specialists say persuading mothers in poor countries not to breastfeed is impractical on a wide scale because they can't afford or find infant formula and women who do not breastfeed are stigmatized because such unusual behavior raises suspicions of HIV infection.

**From staff and wire reports**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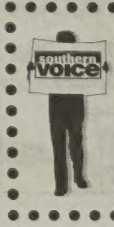


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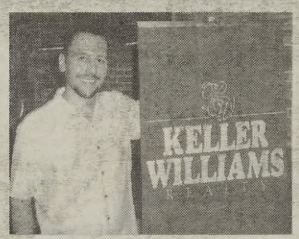


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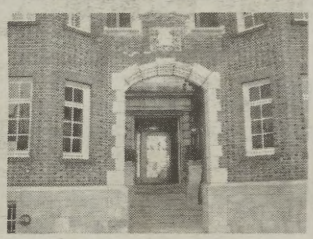

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**PLUSH MIDTOWN HIGHRISE**
Mayfair Bldg, 20th flr, awesome Skyline View, Near Park. 12/mo. $1,350/mo. Internet, water, trash, incl. Serious inquires only. (404) 256-9362, lv msg.

**PRIDE REALTY METRO ATLANTA LOFTS.** Great secured Midtown locations.
✔1 BRs from $625/mo & up.
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## RENT / DEKALB

**DECATUR / CLARKSTON** 2 BR, 1 BA bottom flr unit in house. Off East Ponce, near 285. Prof, NS, pets Ok! $600/mo + dep (404) 296-0748.

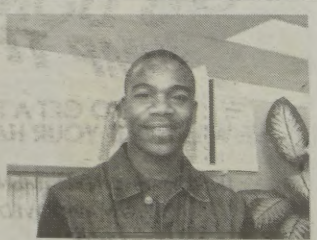
**DECATUR** Totally renovated 4 BR, 3 BA brick home. 2 car garage, basement & pool. Close to I-20 & 285. $1,300/mo + dep & refs. (404) 330-6105.

**EDGEWOOD** 3 BR, 1 BA bungalow. New kitchen, hdwd flrs, CHA, WD, screened porch, fenced yard & basement. $995/mo + utils. (404) 374-0434.

**I-85N & I-285 / TUCKER** Shr house w/ 2 others. BR w/ priv BA. NS, no drugs. $385/mo incl utils. Avail immediately! (770) 723-0112. Refs required.

**KIRKWOOD LEASE PURCHASE** Option beauty completely remodeled: 3/2, master w/jetted tub & fpl. All hdwds, LR & DR each w/fpl. Granite countertops & black appls in kit. Vict full front porch on quite st. Call Gail, (770) 719-1157 or (404) 822-0402. Visit: www.colemanland.net

**NORTHLAKE / BRIARCLIFF** 3 BR, 2 BA duplex on 2 acres. 10 mins Midtown. Tile/hdwds, open family/kit. NS/pets. 1 yr. $975/mo. (404) 633-7850.



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rwoodland@washblade.com

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**FORUM AT DEFOOR CENTRE** An intimate, artistic setting for events; 30' ceilings, large performance stage; accommodates 500 standing, 150 seated; 5 mins from Buckhead, Midtown, Downtown. Contact Shelly Crump, Event Sales Manager (404) 591-3903.

## RENT / ELSEWHERE

**DOUGLASVILLE** Nice 940 sqft 1 BR apt overlooking priv lake, WD hookup. 30 min west of Atlanta, close to I-20. $700/mo incl utils. (404) 538-7363.

## SHARE / FULTON

**EAST POINT** Shr 3 BR home w/ GBM, 40s, smoker; seeks 2 mature/discreet boarders. No party animals/druggies. Live w/ 2 clean gentle Boxers in nice area. $475/mo, shr utils. (404) 376-7106.

**LSP / INMAN** Park. PGWM seeks RM for 2 BR, 2.5 BA TH, WD, gated complex, garage. $600/mo + 1/2 utils. (404) 668-2921.

**LAVISTA / CHESHIRE BRIDGE** Now avail. 3rd GM to shr 3 BR, 2 BA. Furnished. WD, prkg, MARTA, more. Dog & cat. $450/mo. All inclusive except phone. No smoking. Chuck (404) 320-9629. *1st mo + $225 dep*

**M/F FOR 2 BR** apt. CAC/heat, laundry in unit. $425/mo + dep. Excludes utils. 4 blks from Piedmont Park. Own phone. Clean, responsible, employed. (404) 607-8345, lv msg.

**MIDTOWN** 2 BR, CAC, 2 blks to park, off-street prkg, hdwd flrs. $525/mo. (404) 409-2734 or (678) 508-2775.

**MIDTOWN** Above Red Chair. Lrg BR & BA in new home. Gated community over-looking Piedmont Park. Kit & laundry privileges. $650/mo. Call (404) 872-3555.

## SHARE / DEKALB

**EAST ATLANTA VILLAGE** Roommate wanted to shr home mins to Piedmont Park. $450/mo incl utils. (404) 277-0288.

**TUCKER** Beautiful new 3 BR, 3 BA home in quiet cul-de-sec, 2 car garage, deck w/grill. NS. $500/mo + utils & sec dep. (770) 491-9321.

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**ANNOUNCE YOUR UNION** Southern Voice is proud to announce the addition of a "Commitment Ceremonies" category to our Classified listings. When making arrangements for your Union, don't forget to include the most important aspect of all...announcing the date. Publishing your union is easy & simple. Call (877) 863-1885 ext 223 to put the finishing touches on your ceremony.

**ARTISTIC INVITES** Unique & colorful wedding/commitment invitations for the couple seeking to express their individuality. Please visit my website www.nicolerivera.com.

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**VIDEOGRAPHY** For commitment ceremonies & weddings. Call (770) 636-2222 or e-mail videofreelancer@earthlink.net for more info.

**LIFE PARTNER COMMITMENT CEREMONIES** performed by like-minded minister. Call Reverend Angelia Hall (770) 942-9744. Ask about small ceremony packages.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OUR COMMON WELFARE** will provide free HIV testing & counseling. testing using oral fluids & urine test; daily 9am-7pm & Sat 9am-1pm.. Located at 4329 Memorial Dr, Suite H; Decatur (next to Dekalb Co jail). Call (404) 296-3090 for details.

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**NEW LESBIAN FICTION "THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE" by Carole Lenzy Daniel, (Marlowe) new, HOT lesbian love story w/ a twist can be viewed at www.1stbooks.com/bookview/14224 or call (888) 280-7715.**

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**$250 TO $500 A WEEK** Will train to work at home helping US Government file HUD/FHA mortgage refunds. No experience necessary. Call toll free 1-866-537-2906.

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**EDITOR** Houston Voice, the leading GLBT publication in Houston, Texas, seeks experienced journalist to lead its editing team. Ideal candidate will be highly organized & have excellent writing & editing skills. Competitive pay & benefits, generous vacation package. Reply via e-mail to: ccrain@washblade.com.

**HAIRSTYLISTS / NAIL TECHNICIAN WANTED** Will help build. Full Time/Part Time. Great location, Duluth. Perry Colin Salon. (770) 232-1309.

**JOIN THE BEST TEAM IN TOWN! Outwrite looking to hire PT Salesperson. Retail experience reqd, book knowledge helpful. Apply in person @ 991 Piedmont Ave.**

**PROMAID** A national trade magazine is seeking an aggressive, self-motivated person to work as an independent advertising sales person. Work FT or PT. Generous commissions paid. E-mail or fax resume to PROmaid@pmaa.us, (404) 475-6244 or call (404) 475-6243 for more info.

**RESEARCH INTERVIEWER, SENIOR** Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health ISO Research Interviewer to join a tema responsible for recruiting & interviewing up to 1,000 men who have sex with men (MSM) in Fulton County, Georgia. Responsibilities will include: 1) The identification of recruiting venues, 2) Following all recruitment & interviewing protocols, 3) Interviewing MSM at various locations & times (including nights & weekends). Required skills include the ability to quickly establish a working rapport with MSM at various locations & the ability to perform interviews in crowded environments. For more information &/or to apply visit http://emory.hr.emory.edu/careers.nsf or Emory University Human Resources, 1762 Clifton Rd, Atlanta GA 30322. Call for directions at: (404) 727-7611.

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**HANDY HOUSE BOY** Can do almost anything! Day/week/long term; creative, cute, dependable, fast, friendly & reasonable. Make a list & call Michael @ (404) 391-9427.

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## VOLUNTEERS

**ATLANTA HARM REDUCTION CENTER** is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing info, condoms, referrals & more to the people who are the underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time & energy. For more info write to: AHRC; 1020 DeKalb Ave NE, suite 17; Atl GA 30307 or call (404) 526-9222. Email us Ahraatlanta@juno.com.

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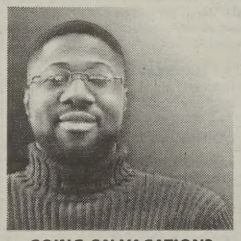
**BEAR HAVEN** Hedonistic hideaway secluded on 30 luscious acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Not a B&B, you have it all to yourselves! Total privacy! Charming cottage is perfect blend or art 7 rustic in nature's most serene setting. With in-ground pool and hot tub. Only 1+ hrs from Beltway. (202) 271-8282.



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***Mention the Southern Voice when call or e-mailing***

**LOST RIVER, WEST VIRGINIA** The Guest House at Lost River. 2 hrs Beltway. Premium accommodations in a cozy country-style B&B setting. Quietly secluded, private & bordering the million-acre George Washington National Forest, this mini-resort offers a continuous atmosphere of tranquility & absolute peace while in a luxurious setting. Our main lodge, w/ over 4,000 sq ft of common area, is constructed of log & cedar w/ an enormous 19-foot tall stone fireplace. Guest will always find a nook or cranny to enjoy a cozy place to cuddle, relax & enjoy the space to yourself. Amenities incl.: heated pool; outdoor jacuzzi, indoor subterranean stone & tile grotto w/ 10 person spa & 8-person steam room, new fitness center, ACE-Certified Personal Trainer by appt, massage therapy room, licensed therapist on staff, facials & tanning. Dinner Saturdays. (304) 897-5707. E-mail: guesthse@hardynet.com
Web page: www.guesthouseatlostriver.com

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www.moosemeadowlodge.com

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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

the candidate
2003 BY ALISON BECHDEL
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? HOW COULD THE PROSECUTOR NOT KNOW THE GUY HAS THREE PRIORS?!... NO, NO. I'LL CALL HER TOMORROW... OKAY. BYE.
AAAANH
HONEY? DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD BE TAKING CALLS FROM WORK? I'M WORRIED THE STRESS IS DECREASING YOUR MILK PRODUCTION.
WAAAH! AANH!
BIP
SHE'S SO FUSSY, AND I DON'T THINK SHE'S GAINING ENOUGH WEIGHT.
STUART, SHE WAS FINE AT HER LAST CHECK-UP. AND YOU CAN'T WEIGH HER LIKE THAT!
AAAANH!
YOU GUYS, WHAT DO YOU THINK? ANOTHER SOCK?
THAT DEPENDS. ARE YOU RUNNING FOR OFFICE?
HIC!
YEAH, TONIGHT'S THE "DEMOCRATS ARE A DRAG" REVUE AT CLUB L. I'M GONNA FLY ONSTAGE WITH A CABLE ATTACHED TO MY, UH... HARNESS.
THEN THE AUDIENCE VOTES AS I SQUARE OFF AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES IN AN "ARE YOU HOT" STYLE STRUT-FEST.
IF ONLY ALL CITIZENS WERE AS ENGAGED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.
HIGHWAY TO THE DANGER ZONE... DUH DUH DUH...
WAAH!
GINGER, ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO COME? WE STILL NEED A DENNIS KUCINICH, PRO-CHOICE T-SHIRT, A PAIR OF FLIP-FLOPS, YOU'D BE ALL SET.
NAH.
COME ON. I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE NEVER GONNA MEET ANYONE HANGING AROUND HERE WITH THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR FAMILY.
ANUBIS!
ANUBIS! HEEL!
OFF, ANUBIS! GOD, I'M SO SORRY.
BUT WHAT THE HELL DO I KNOW?

# CLASSIFIEDS

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**ATLANTA DOG SPA** Come enjoy the dog days of summer! Specializing in doggie day care, boarding, grooming & training. *Free half-day doggie day care on first visit! Call (404) 879-1600 or www.atlantadogspa.com.

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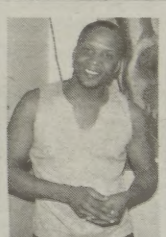

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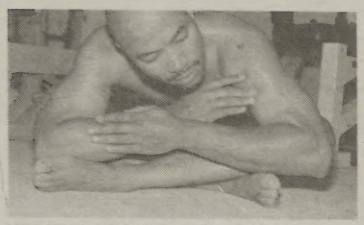

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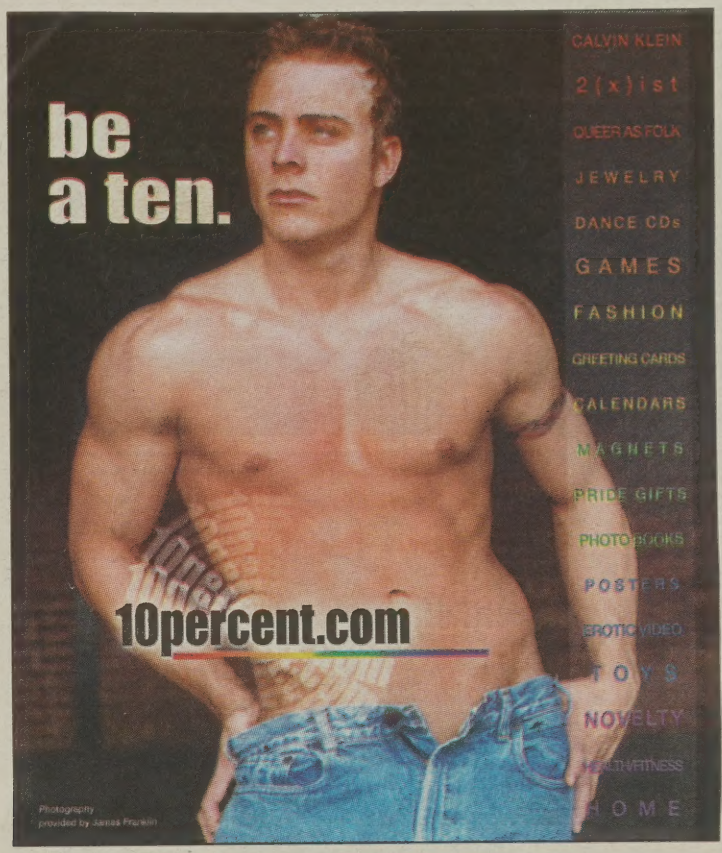
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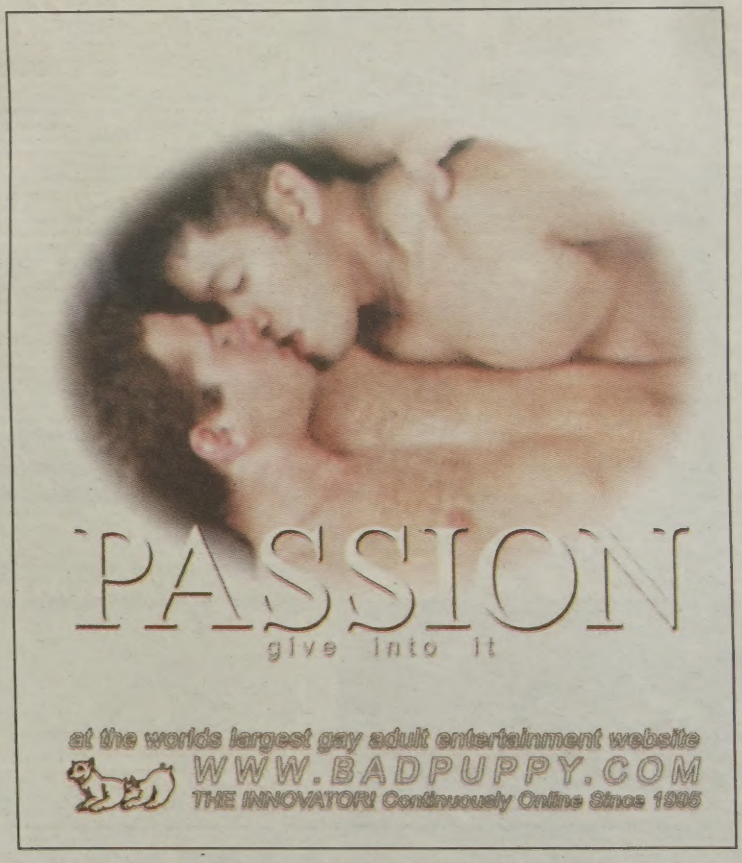
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## Men Seeking Men

**JAR SEEKS LID**
GBM, short, slim, bottom, hairy, outgoing, attractive, seeking male top, 20-40, no games, to share movies, fun times, for LTR. Atlanta ☎554283

**GET TO KNOW ME**
SBM, 28, 5'5", brown/brown, manager, seeks SM, 24-56 for mutual appreciation of shared activities and companionship, possibly more. Northport ☎555523

**RELIEF FROM STUDYING**
SBM, 19, bookworm, seeks occasional friend, male, 20-24 who enjoys, tennis, computers, conversation, movies, dinner, good times. Clarkston ☎554384

**LOOKS MUCH YOUNGER!**
Attractive, outgoing, humorous, intelligent SBM, 49, seeks attractive, sexy, secure, masculine, easygoing man, 25-50, who is a good conversationalist, funny, intelligent, warm, personable, affectionate, drama-free. Atlanta ☎488663

**LOOKING FOR YOU**
GWM, 41, 5'8", 160lbs, dark/dark, HIV+, lean, muscular build, in good health, seeks GWM, 35-50, HIV+, who works out and takes care of himself. Atlanta ☎959072

**HEY THERE**
Handsome SWM, Sagittarius, smoker, seeks WM, 28-28, smoker, who enjoys clubbing, dancing and just simply having fun. Knoxville ☎549375

**LOOKING FOR YOU**
Attractive, fun, light-complected SBM, 38, Libra, non smoker, seeks man, 18-49, for dating and more. Gainesville ☎551399

**ANYONE OUT THERE?**
SM, 23, brown/blue, tan complexion, enjoys gardening, the outdoors, talks and cuddling. Seeking SM, to share these with. ☎542114

**GEORGIA OUTDOORSMAN**
SWM, 32, seeks SM, 18-35, for friendship and fun, race unimportant. I like the outdoors, camping, hiking, country music. Mount Airy ☎542939

**WORTH YOUR CALL**
Attractive, masculine male, 31, 5'11", 175lbs, dark brown complexion, thick eyebrows, goatee, seeks attractive, open-minded man, for companionship, maybe something more. Atlanta ☎527742

**SEXY**
Good-looking, masculine SBM, 39, bottom, seeks muscular man to share good times, talks and maybe something more. ☎516933

**DOWNTOWN ATLANTA**
Intelligent, attractive SBM, 29, 5'9", 160lbs, dreadlocks, Leo, N/S, seeks BM, 18-40, N/S, in shape, attractive, independent. ☎511819

**MAKE OF QUALITY**
GM, 28, 5'8", 155lbs, attractive, professional, well-educated, seeks masculine, attractive W/HM for dating and possible LTR. Sense of humor a must! Atlanta ☎491742

**LONELY IN ATLANTA**
SWM, 22, 6'2", 165lbs, looking for a sexy guy, 30-45, who would like a long-term relationship. Ballard Gardens ☎481137

**COULD IT BE YOU?**
Masculine, attractive GBM, 32, 5'1", 200lbs, Gemini, N/S, enjoys music, concerts, symphony, outdoors, baseball, television, cooking. Seeking man, 24-45, to paint the town with. Atlanta ☎429578

**SENSE OF HUMOR A MUST**
Light-hearted SM, 42, 6'2", 180lbs, brown hair, boy-next-door features, likes movies, reading, music, plays. Seeking male with similar interests. Atlanta ☎959035

**AWAITING YOUR CALL**
Loving, affectionate SM, 40, 5'8", 175lbs, brown/brown, enjoys horseback riding, nature hikes, day trips, quiet times home, snuggling, more. Seeking like-minded man, to share the good things in life. ☎534279

**LOOK ME UP**
GWM, 21, 200lbs, blond/green, seeks GWM, to enjoy hanging out, good conversations, clubbing, movies and maybe something more. ☎534597

**INTERESTED?**
SBM, 23, spontaneous and outgoing seeks similar, good-humored man to enjoy all life offers. ☎534799

**SIMPLE**
SM, open-minded, fun and sweet, seeks good-natured, outgoing man to share friendship, good conversations, hanging out and maybe something more. ☎540397

**A COUCH POTATO, I'M NOT**
Divorced BPM, 33, 6'3", 192lbs, shaved head, fit, in tone, Capricorn, N/S, works out, loves to sing. Seeking BM, 28-48, N/S. ☎509937

**ONE SMART COOKIE**
SBM, 36, 5'7", 146lbs, black/brown, medium build, Gemini, N/S, loves studying law and computers. Seeking BM, 30-40, N/S, sincere, honest, trustworthy. ☎513561

**BROTHER SEEKS SAME**
SBPM, 33, 6'1", 190lbs, mustache, goatee, Virgo, N/S, seeks BPM, 27-39, N/S, for conversation and more. ☎515611

**COCOA DOPPELGANGER**
GBPM, 45, identical twin, 5'11, 175lbs, attractive, healthy, educated. Seeks attractive, beefy, hairy, dominant, 38-45, 6'2", 200lbs+, to enjoy beaches, dinner parties, quiet time, low-key. Northside ☎553200

**ANYONE OUT THERE?**
SM, 43, 5'11", 170lbs, salt-n-pepper hair, HIV+, seeks honest, kind-hearted man HIV+, to share friendship, talks, quality times and more. Carrollton ☎525928

**IS IT YOU?**
SM, 19, employed, loving, fun, seeks outgoing, fun, spirited man who enjoys travel, clubbing, dining, movies, camping and life. ☎517353

**CALL ON ME**
SM, 20, 6'3", who enjoys being with friends, dancing, going to the clubs. Looking for a nice SM, 20-28, for dating. Knoxville ☎519408

**POSITIVE GUY SEEKS SAME**
WM, 32, 5'9", 160lbs, brown/blue, HIV+, healthy, genuine, straightforward, realistic, seeks similar masculine type for dating. Serious only, please. Atlanta ☎476521

**FRIENDSHIP FIRST**
GBM, 31, 6'4", 195lbs, brown/brown, goatee, would like to meet God-loving, kind-hearted GM for movies, jazz, dining out, church and more. Atlanta ☎499162

**SINGLE AND LOOKING**
GWM, 31, enjoys reading, movies, dining out, travel, sports. Seeking GM, with similar interests, for dating and more. Serious inquiries only. Apo ☎502864

**LET'S HANG OUT**
SBM, 31, 5'10", brown eyes, 210lbs, seeks PM to hang out with and get to know! Belvedere ☎481594

**MAYBE IT'S YOU**
SBM, 32, 5'11", 163lbs, medium build, hardworking laid-back, seeks down-to-earth, easygoing, intelligent, professional SBM, 30-45, HIV-, for friendship and more. Atlanta ☎451573

**BE MY TEDDY BEAR**
SBM, 32, 5'8", 240lbs, with a large build, is interested in meeting a WM, with a husky build, for friendship and more. Norcross ☎446778

**COP AND A GENTLEMAN**
SBM, 44, 6'1", 216lbs, athletic build, short black/brown (sometimes wears glasses), sincere, caring, easygoing, Taurus, N/S, enjoys cooking, plays. Seeking kind, sensitive, homebody type, 20-42. Macon ☎509684

**SHAKE THAT BODY FOR ME**
SWM, 54, 5'10", 210lbs, blue eyes, hairy chest, with tan, Libra, N/S, seeks man, 22-65, gym type, smooth body a plus. Douglasville ☎512737

**I BRAKE FOR RINKS**
SBM, 19, long black/hazel, caramel complexion, Pisces, N/S, enjoys skating and the Underground. Seeking BM, 18-25, N/S, in Atlanta area. ☎515414

**LET'S MEET!**
SM, 24, in search of a masculine man, 18-35, for friendship or not. Let's talk, see if we hit it off! Smyrna ☎478330

**LET'S START BY MEETING!**
GWM, 22, 6'4", 220lbs, brown/hazel, looking for a male, 21-28, for friendship first. If you're interested, leave me a message! East Cobb Station ☎482842

**EXTRA WEIGHT? GREAT!**
SBM, 47, 6', 200lbs, shaved head, mustache, goatee, husky, Gemini, N/S, seeks stocky, beefy man, 30-75, hirsute a+, top or versatile, for monogamous LTR. ☎462517

**CORVETTE SUMMER**
GWM, bottom, 40, smoker, 5'8", 200lbs, brown/blue, into cars, racing, outdoors, music and dogs. Looking for a top with similar interests and varied. Hairy a plus, but not a requirement. smoke/drink ok. Serious replies only. Woodstock ☎275721

**CARING SWM...**
tired of being alone. SWM, 6'3", 235lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, N/D, N/S, N/Drugs, Christian daddy bear, seeks Mr. Right, 25-45, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎959083

**WHATEVER IT TAKES**
SM, 22, looking for a male, 18-24, to go out, party, and have some fun with! Ridgeland ☎483112

**ACTIVE IN SPORTS**
SM, 21, in search of a muscular male, 18-25, for whatever happens! Give me a call, take a chance! Atlanta ☎493019

**SEEKING A SOULMATE**
GWM, 45, 5'8", 160lbs, Brown/brown, moustache, HIV+, quite healthy, honest, sincere, enjoys camping, fishing, gardening, quiet times at home. ISO GWM, 40-50, with similar interests. South Metro area. Griffin ☎959082

**CALL ME**
SM, 18, 6'2", brown/blue, enjoys dancing, going out, and hanging out with friends. Looking for a new friend. Atlanta ☎477651

**LOVE AND COMPASSION**
SBM, 38, is looking for a best friend, growing into more, with a wonderful man who enjoys walks, talks and more. Atlanta ☎469925

**A GOOD LOVER**
SWM, 38, 5'11", medium complexion, mustache, versatile, Cancer, smoker, seeks WM, 30-42, with a kind heart. Belvedere ☎465393

**SHALL WE?**
Bi-racial male, 18, long black/hazel, Aries, N/S, seeks man, 18-25, N/S, Atlanta area, for friendship, fun, and dating. ☎466935

**SLIGHTLY ON THE EDGE**
SWM, 41, 6'1", 190lbs, diverse, well-traveled, handsome, Gemini, smoker, teaches and trains horses. Seeking similar tall, masculine B/HM, 18-45. Atlanta ☎468020

**HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU**
SBM, 23, 5'11", 170lbs, dark complexion, low hair cut, extremely hairy, loves the outdoors, horseback-riding, fishing, quiet times home, cuddling. Seeking SM, with good morals and a passion for life. Atlanta ☎451386

## Women Seeking Women

**A FRIENDLY HELLO**
SWF, 35, attractive, down-to-earth, dominant, out-going, personable, seeks same, 29-45, for companionship, possibly more. It all starts with a friendly hello. Smyrna ☎555789

## Been Glanced ?

**WHITE BUTTONFLY JEANS...**
and red top that you wore so well a the Ansley Kroger Sunday, Jan.15 at 1 p.m. Can't get you out of my mind!! Atlanta ☎117288

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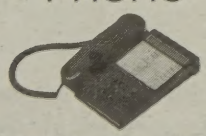

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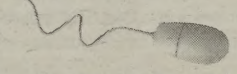

Give us your e-mail address and we'll do the rest.

**ALONE BUT NOT LONELY**
GBF, 44, full-figured, seeks SGF, 40-60, emotionally secure and not into drama, who enjoys quiet times and stimulating conversation, for friendship. No bisexuals please. Sandy Springs. Atlanta ☎554779

**SOMETHING SWEET**
SBF, 23, mature, enjoys movies, dining out, traveling and spending time with that special someone. Seeks hard-working, well-educated stud, 20-38, no games please. Atlanta. ☎555875

**LOOKING FOR ME?**
Sexy, attractive SBF, 22, 5'5", 145lbs, caramel complexion, tattoos, low hair cut, enjoys a good night out. Seeking special, down-to-earth lady for park walks, talks, picnics and maybe LTR. ☎534149

**WANT TO JOIN ME?**
SF, 25, 5'2", 168lbs, brown complexion, well-groomed, independent, mother of 3, loves movies, shopping, parks more. Seeking very intelligent, down-to-earth, similar, child friendly female, for friendship and fun times. ☎534583

**JUST BE HONEST...**
for you never know where it will lead you. SWF, 34, Aries, N/S, seeks a true friendship with a BF, 28-43, who enjoys pool. ☎513317

**SPORTY BUT FEMININE**
SWPF, 47, teacher, likes hiking, working out, tennis, day trips, beaches, mountains, dining, movies. Looking for a similar woman, 38-60, for friendship, possible more. Mc Donough ☎400353

**LET'S TALK!**
Spiritual SF, 37, cook, enjoys reading, meditation, quiet times. Seeking like-minded, drama-free lady to share friendship and more. ☎517497

**STAY SWEET!**
Full-figured SWF, 29, new to Atlanta area, fun, outgoing, straight-forward, down-to-earth, independent, lives alone, seeks SW/BF, for companionship, good conversation, walks, exploring life together. D/D-free. ☎296039

**NO GAME PLAYERS**
SBF, 30, 5'5", 165lbs, likes shopping, movies, walks in the park, reading books, romantic dinners. Seeking outgoing SF, 27-37, who knows what she wants. Jonesboro ☎478500

**HOPELESS ROMANTIC**
Female, 27, 5'3", 190lbs, long brown/hazel, loves watching football and occasional tennis, enjoys writing poems and short stories. Seeking friend, possibly more. Bloomingdale ☎959098

**SPARE TIME BUDDY**
GBF, 34, enjoys movies, reading, dining out, travel, sports, biking. Seeking GF, with similar interests, for companionship and more. Atlanta ☎341420

**DRAMA FREE**
Hard-working, educated stud, 33, 5', 145lbs, black/brown, D/D-free, two beautiful daughters, dimples, not into games, seeks female to spend some quality time with! Duluth ☎403879

**MAKE EACH OTHER LAUGH**
SBF, 32, 5'2", 145lbs, Sagittarius, N/S, college student, seeks woman, 24-45, N/S, for friendship, casual dating. Let's seize the moment! East Cobb Station ☎393939

**BE MINE**
Attractive, feminine, hip GWF, 29, spiritual, adventurous, loves fashion, art. Looking for love outside the box. Memorial Square ☎262497

**SHORT AND SEXY**
GPF, 34, enjoys movies, music, travel, working out, outdoor activities. Seeking B/HF, 28-40, with similar interests, for friendship first. Stone Mountain ☎250845

**WAITING TO EXHALE**
BF, 5'8", long brown/brown, of large frame, telecommunications customer service representative, loves college football, basketball, and travel. Seeking woman for committed relationship. Atlanta ☎959061

**LOOKING FOR LOVE**
Attractive, feminine, professional GBF, 39, enjoys concerts, plays, quiet dinners, cuddling, and occasional evenings out on the town. Seeking sincere, loving, butch GWPF with similar interests. Powder Springs ☎959135

**A FULL DECK**
Female, 39, Aquarius, employed in communications, enjoys playing cards, movies, and parks. Seeking woman, 38-42. ☎511539

**OUTGOING WOMAN**
GBF, 18, 5'4", 160lbs, brown/brown, enjoys movies, music, quiet times, outdoors, sports. Seeking GF, with similar interests, for LTR. Atlanta ☎503248

**A LOT TO OFFER**
GBF, 36, 5'5", 136lbs, brown/hazel, enjoys sports, travel, the arts, reading, movies, the beach. Seeking attractive, outgoing, feminine, down-to-earth GF, with similar interests, for friendship first. Covington ☎503266

**SOUND LIKE YOU?**
SF, 47, looking for a woman, 35-55, for swimming, working out, movies, concerts, and relaxation. Decatur ☎484587

**ALL GOOD THINGS**
SBF, 41, 5'1", with a full figure, is in search of a nice lady who is willing to try anything at least one. Fairfax ☎468601

**SEEKS FRIENDS**
SF, 44, seeks laid-back SF, who enjoys movies, dining, picnics, travel, or quiet times at home. Sound like you? ☎333712

**SPIRITUALLY CENTERED**
Mature, straight-forward GPF, 42, enjoys simple life of quality vs. quantity, seeks same, enjoys good conversation, cultural events, reading, companionship. Friendship first and when it's meant to be, maybe more. ☎288400

**OLDER WISER LESBIANS**
Can we start a support/social group for the above in North Fulton County? Is anyone out there? If interested and would like to get involved, please call. Alpharetta ☎959093

**MATURE SOPHISTICATE**
BF, 55, mature sophisticate, seeks same in professional BF to share dining, movies, travel, cultural events and comfortable home life, some discretion required. Stone Mountain ☎959099

**LET'S TALK**
Sincere SPF, 44, tall, blonde, very attractive, H/W proportionate, magnetic smile, enjoys working out, the outdoors, kayaking, beaches, fly fishing, reading, the arts. Seeking open-minded SF,with eclectic interests, for friendship/fun. Winder ☎422660

**A LOT OF QUIET TIME**
Soft butch, 42, athletic, seeks feminine, mature, sophisticated, professional woman, 35-55, who's lonely and desires good conversation, dates to the movies, jazz clubs, plays. Athens ☎304005

**LOOK HERE**
GWPF, 51, sane, solvent, spiritual, attractive, fun, athletic, vegetarian, bad violin player, but working on it, seeks friends first, wanna know more? Your turn. N/S, no drugs, no drama. Pine Lake ☎959132

**GOOD COMPANY AWAITS YOU**
Tall, slender, attractive GBF, with wholesome qualities, seeks the company of a like-minded spirit; somewhat conservative yet adventurous, romantic idealist, who appreciates intellectual stimulation tempered with good humor. Stone Mountain ☎488277

**SOMETHING FOR THE LADIES**
Serious GBF, 20, Cancer, N/S, seeks older GBF, 21-33, to fulfill all of my dreams. Atlanta ☎432222

**MY QUEST**
GWF seeks same. Please be 36-44, fit, attractive, intelligent, spiritual, emotionally available. Let's meet, talk and see where it goes. Tucker ☎424315

**WAITING FOR YOU**
GHF, 39, Leo, N/S, enjoys movies, seeks honest, faithful, affectionate GWF, 30-48, who likes dogs, and not into drugs, for possible LTR. Moncks Corner ☎393286

**SAVE THE DRAMA!**
Brown-skinned woman, 45, 5'7", 186lbs, smoker, looking for a special lady, 34-41, race open, to spend time. Not looking for a lot of drama! ☎317653

**READY TO SETTLE DOWN**
SWPF, 42, looking for intelligent, articulate professional, 30-45, for good friendship first, maybe leading to a committed relationship. I like the outdoors, sports, music, shopping, more. Douglasville ☎278957

**SLOW DANCE WITH ME**
Feminine GBF, 49, seeks endless romance with aggressive woman, 30+. Let's explore the possibility for LTR and the good life. Are you willing? No fems or bi/curious. Smyrna ☎255276

**SEEKING COMRADERY**
Feminine GWPF, 32, attractive, fit, enjoys Latin culture, working out, hiking, travel, beaches, shopping, arts, adventure, thought-provoking television/conversation, spending time with my dog. Seeking new friendship with happy individual. Atlanta ☎116721

## Just Friends

**SEEKS FRIENDS**
GBF, 42, seeks GF, 35-45, who's professional, spiritual, and feminine, for friendship. No smokers, Bi's, drugs or alcoholics. Stone Mountain ☎422721

**WANTED FRIENDS**
GWPF, mid-30s, seeks similar, 25-40, for friends. Enjoys arts, travel, outdoors, sports, music of all types. I enjoy watching movies at home and out, good conversations, sincerity. No drugs. ☎258934

**MY PARTNER AND I...**
recently relocated to Atlanta, and are seeking other females with whom to form a friendship, network, social group. Arlington ☎461866

**WHITE BOTTOM BOY**
WM, 20, 5'10", 165lbs, brown/green, bottom, very smooth, fit, athletic, seeks adventurous top, 18-28, who can take charge in the bedroom. Athens ☎408244

## Bisexuals

**SPECIAL FRIEND**
Bi-curious SBF, 29, Capricorn, N/S, loves basketball, football, and picnics. Seeking Bi-curious or BiF, 29-35, N/S, stable. Claremont ☎462011

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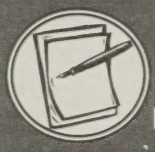
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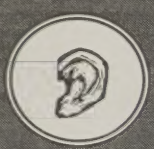
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